

Report to the Congregation on the Social Justice Questionnaire Results

The Social Justice Committee wants to thank all individuals who responded to the recent Social Justice Questionnaire. We appreciate your time and effort!

The Social Justice Committee surveyed the membership in July and August regarding their valuing of eight social justice issues. It is important to share the results of the survey with the members of our congregation; this report is intended to fill that need.

In the questions, members were asked to rate the degree to which they cared about eight social justice issues, most were issues in which AMOS had some emphasis. Members were also asked to list additional issues and to indicate the degree to which they might be willing to participate in social justice efforts. The questionnaire and results are presented below.

Thirty-nine members responded. Interestingly, individual respondents did not vary in their responses to the items. If a person rated any of the eight items a 1, or 2 or 3, they rated each of the eight items the same. Thus for each item, there were two members (5.1%) who rated all eight items 1, twenty members (51.3%) who rated all items 2, and seventeen members (43.6%) who rated all items 3. Table 1 below summarizes the responses to individual items.

Table 1. Summary of Responses to the Eight Social Justice Items on the Questionnaire		
1. I care very little or not at all	2. I care somewhat	3. I care a great deal and am willing to be involved
Mental Health: Addressing inadequacies in the current care system.		2 – 1 ratings 5.1% 20 – 2 ratings 51.3% 17 – 3 ratings 43.6%
Environmental Protection and Reducing Climate Change and Toxic Pollution: Connections among climate change/pollution/poverty/power.		2 – 1 ratings 5.1% 20 – 2 ratings 51.3% 17 – 3 ratings 43.6%
Affordable Housing in Ames/Story County.		2 – 1 ratings 5.1% 20 – 2 ratings 51.3% 17 – 3 ratings 43.6%
Bringing Project Iowa to Ames/Story County: A job skills training program that includes “people and soft skills” training for the underemployed or “unemployable”.		2 – 1 ratings 5.1% 20 – 2 ratings 51.3% 17 – 3 ratings 43.6%
Ethnic Racial Disparities in School Achievement and Discipline in the Ames School District and in the Juvenile Justice System.		2 – 1 ratings 5.1% 20 – 2 ratings 51.3% 17 – 3 ratings 43.6%
Refugee and Immigrant Justice: Supporting immigrant sanctuary in another church and fair, welcoming, and ethical treatment and policies for immigrants/refugees		2 – 1 ratings 5.1% 20 – 2 ratings 51.3% 17 – 3 ratings 43.6%
Lesbian, Bi-sexual, Gay, Transgender Justice Issues.		2 – 1 ratings 5.1% 20 – 2 ratings 51.3% 17 – 3 ratings 43.6%
Reducing Inequalities and Promoting Justice in the Health Care System.		2 – 1 ratings 5.1% 20 – 2 ratings 51.3% 17 – 3 ratings 43.6%

Members were also asked

1. Are you willing to receive emails, phone calls, or texts from the Social Justice Committee about issues you indicated you cared about somewhat or a great deal? [Receive the agendas of the Social Justice Committee before its meetings in order to communicate about or attend and share my views about particular issues.] Yes 21 No 18

2. Are you willing to receive emails, phone calls, or texts from the Social Justice Committee about issues you indicated you cared about somewhat or a great deal? [Be asked to write letters, call public officials, or attend meetings relevant to social justice issues.] Yes 24 No 15

3. Are you willing to receive emails, phone calls, or texts from the Social Justice Committee about issues you indicated you cared about somewhat or a great deal? [Would you like to be part of the social justice committee?] Yes 9 No 30

Individuals indicated additional issues in which they were interested. These issues were:

1. Human Trafficking
2. My number one interest is to work with others who are interested in being involved in education and/or getting books and other support to prisoners.
3. Food insecurity - there is a large gap between those who qualify for assistance programs and those who can support themselves
4. Violence against women; Access to legal justice (criminal & civil)
5. I am willing to receive phone calls and emails to participate in addressing inadequacies in the current mental health care system. However, even though I care about the other issues mentioned as well, I do not have time to participate in them.

One person suggested:

I am already over-capacity for political feeds. Local political organizers could speak to congregations 3x/yr. The letter writing table on Sundays was very good for me. Please bring it back!

The responses to the three **Willingness to Participate** items are shown in Table 2.

Table 2 Summary of three Willingness to Participate Items			
Each of the three items was prefaced by the following:: <i>Are you willing to receive emails, phone calls, or texts from the Social Justice Committee about issues you indicated you cared about somewhat or a great deal? Possible responses were: 1 = Yes 0 = No</i>			
Item 1 [Receive the agendas of the Social Justice Committee before its meetings in order to communicate about or attend and share my views about particular issues.]	Item 2 [Be asked to write letters, call public officials, or attend meetings relevant to social justice issues.]	Item 3 Are you willing to receive emails, phone calls, or texts from the Social Justice Committee about issues you indicated you cared about somewhat or a great deal? [Would you like to be part of the social justice committee?]	Willing to serve on committee
1	1	0	0
1	1	1	1
1	1	0	0
0	0	0	0
1	1	1	1
1	1	1	1
1	1	0	0
1	1	1	1
0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0
1	1	0	0

Table 2 continued Summary of three Willingness to Participate Items

	1 = Yes 0 = No		
1 Are you willing to receive emails, phone calls, or texts from the Social Justice Committee about issues you indicated you cared about somewhat or a great deal? [Receive the agendas of the Social Justice Committee before its meetings in order to communicate about or attend and share my views about particular issues.]	2 Are you willing to receive emails, phone calls, or texts from the Social Justice Committee about issues you indicated you cared about somewhat or a great deal? [Be asked to write letters, call public officials, or attend meetings relevant to social justice issues.]	3 Are you willing to receive emails, phone calls, or texts from the Social Justice Committee about issues you indicated you cared about somewhat or a great deal? [Would you like to be part of the social justice committee?]	Willing to serve on committee
1	1	1	1
1	1	1	1
1	1	0	0
0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0
1	0	0	0
1	1	0	0
1	0	0	0
0	1	0	0
1	1	1	1
1	1	1	1
0	0	0	0
1	1	0	0
1	1	1	1
0	1	0	0
0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0
1	1	0	0
0	0	0	0

Table 2 continued Summary of three Willingness to Participate Items			
	1 = Yes 0 = No		
Item 1 [Receive the agendas of the Social Justice Committee before its meetings in order to communicate about or attend and share my views about particular issues.]	Item 2 [Be asked to write letters, call public officials, or attend meetings relevant to social justice issues.]	Item 3 [Would you like to be part of the social justice committee?]	Willing to serve on committee
0	0	0	0
1	1	0	0
0	0	0	0
0	1	0	0
0	0	0	0
0	1	0	0
0	1	0	0
0	0	0	0
1	1	0	0
Yes = 21 No = 18	Yes = 24 No = 15	Yes = 9 No = 30	

Thirteen members indicated no willingness to be contacted by the committee; 26 members indicated a willingness to receive SJ agendas and/or to be contacted about writing or emailing officials about social justice issues. Nine members indicated a willingness to serve on the committee.

Twenty-three members provided a name and email address so they could be contacted.