

SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

Community United Church of Christ and the Social Justice Ministry suffered an irrecoverable loss in 2014 with the death of Cyrus B. King. Along with his good wife, Carolyn, who had predeceased him in 2012, the two Kings personified the social gospel thrust of CUCC for decades. Pastors came and pastors went, parishioners came and parishioners went, but Cy and Carolyn remained quiet, personable, and effective bedrocks of progressive advocacy throughout the years since World War II. Their accomplishments are too numerous to list here, but any attentive citizen of Raleigh during the years of their lives is aware of what they contributed to CUCC, Raleigh, the state of North Carolina, and the nation. We shall not see their likes again in this life.

Dr. Mike Soboeiro joined the SJM as its newest member in January. Mike quickly demonstrated his keen awareness of public policy matters and contributed significantly to the SJM's discussions.

With its primary purpose to advocate for and provide financial support to organizations whose missions are to improve the world as they (and we) see it, the SJM placed those entities into general and sometimes overlapping categories. Each member selected one or more to oversee on behalf of the ministry. Altogether there are 43 organizations and activities to which SJM lent its support. The categories and advocates include the following:

- World Peace: Cy King until his death, Cynthia Ball, and Mike Soboeiro
- Political System Integrity and Voters Rights: Cynthia Ball
- World Hunger: Don Birt
- Farm Labor and Legal Justice: Don Birt
- Racial and Economic Justice: Shirley Birt
- Environmental Justice and Integrity of Nature: John Little
- Children's Needs and Public Education: Frank Gailor
- Central American and Congolese Needs: Unassigned
- Gun Violence and the Death Penalty: Mike Soboeiro
- Poverty and Hate Groups: Edith Sylla
- Gay Rights: Adrienne and John Little
- Human Rights and Issues of the Aging: Gary Smith
- Health Care Reform: Adrienne Little
- National Legislation: Grady McCallie
- Intra and Interfaith Issues: Grady McCallie

The SJM contributed \$1,000.00 to the state NAACP to assist with its Moral Monday demonstrations. Due mostly to the radical changes effected by the North Carolina legislature and the governor's office, the SJM found 2014 to be the most challenging year it has dealt with in a long time.

The SJM actively supported two UCC Task Forces—Justice in a Changing Climate (JCC) and The Economic Justice Task Force throughout 2014.

Submitted by John Little