



## Education and Housing Equity Project Records.

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# Conversations at the Crossroads

## Faith Compendium

Dear Community Circle Participant,

The Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing (MICAHA) knows that people of faith have a special role in the Conversations at the Crossroads dialogues. We believe that people of faith should be heard from.

Across the country there are groups like yours - congregations, interfaith organizations and informal groups of persons - who have been moved to express their faith by taking Part in important public policy discussions.

Over the next few weeks you will be wrestling with a number of complex and challenging issues: including racism, segregation, inequality, housing, education. As you Take part in these conversations, we encourage you to bring your personal faith perspective to the discussion. In particular, you might address the following questions:

- What does your faith tradition have to say about the key issues under discussion (e.g. racism, segregation, inequality, housing, education)?
- Does your faith call you to enhance the educational, housing and economic Opportunities of your fellow citizens? If so, in what ways?
- Some members of the religious community would argue that the problems facing the Twin Cities metropolitan area are, at root, spiritual. Do you agree? what does it mean to say that the root of a problem is spiritual?

Also, as part of your discussions, you might reflect on a particular passage from the scriptures. A few examples are provided here:

- *Is this not the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thong of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?*  
(Isaiah 58:6)
- *Do justice, love mercy, walk humbly with your God.* (Micah 6:8)
- *Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an everflowing stream.*  
(Amos 5:24)
- *We are all members of one body; when one member suffers, all suffer as one.*  
(I Corinthians 12:26-27)

These are questions that people of faith need to wrestle with. We are, after all, called to Righteousness. But these are hard questions, hard because to answer them is to go beyond the world of self and family and enter the complex, conflict ridden, and often confusing world of politics and public policy.

This is a world that many of us would choose to avoid. Yet, the future of our children and our region is at stake. Some changes can only be made through social policy and political action.

Arthur Simon, founder of Bread for the world, a religious based anti-hunger lobby, has said that "Faith without advocacy makes it difficult to achieve a certain level of justice and our failure to advocate robs others of hope and diminishes hope in all of us."