



Volume 1, Issue 1

BREAD NEWSLETTER

2023 Q1 (3/31/2023)

BREAD'S COMPOSITION & KEY SCRIPTURAL TEXT

The B.R.E.A.D. organization is comprised of many different congregations, who in turn represent many different traditions. Each of our congregations believes something different – about the nature of God and the name of God. But each of us shares a commitment to pursue justice guided by our faith – to finding, in the things that we share, the strength that unity can bring.

“He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”
Micah 6:6-8 (NRSV)



HOUSING CONVENING

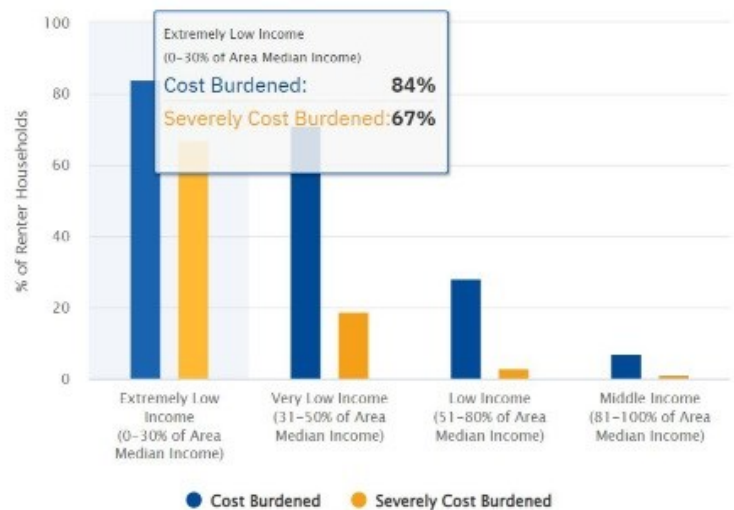
Congregation Tifereth Israel
1354 E. Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43205
March 9, 2023
10:30 am
Event moderator: Amelia Robinson of The Columbus Dispatch



The 2023 Housing Convening was well attended at Congregation Tifereth Israel on March 9th. Stirring testimonies were given by Jacqueline Gonzalez and Jasper Mason. These were followed by a presentation by Mr. Anthony Forte, the Columbus Field Office Director of HUD about local obstacles and opportunities. The keynote speaker was Victoria Bourret of the National Low Income Housing Coalition who reflected their initiatives and statistics. Amelia Robinson of the Columbus Dispatch was the moderator and Stuart McIntyre of the Columbus Education Justice Coalition adjourned the event.

CONNECT TO NETWORK
Ohio

Housing Cost Burden by Income Group



BREAD'S ANNUAL



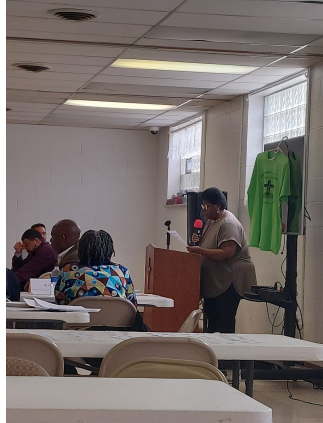
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. RETREAT



On January 16, 2023 nearly 40 BREAD Team members came together at the First Unitarian Universalist Church to celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Team members reflected on why they do

justice as Pastor Jefferey Kee of New Faith Baptist Church reviewed excerpts from the book "Waging a Good War" by Thomas Ricks. Many

parallels were made to the work of BREAD and lessons from the Civil Rights movement.



VIOLENCE INTERVENTION STRATEGY (UPDATE)

Hundreds of BREAD Network Members joined together in-person and online for reports on our various research committees. We heard an update from Columbus Safety Director, Robert Clark, about our work to decrease violence. In support of our work with Clark to see the Group Violence Intervention Strategy, he

noted: "I know every single case that happens...every shooting that happens...and it's still too much. We will never police our way out of the problem we have in our community. We need to make our community safe and make sure our residents feel safe...There must be a holistic approach."

Calvin Cunningham, a Network Member from Rhema Christian Center, shared his story of being shot while driving home after dropping off his niece. Watch the testimony online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=buRIYJreZBU>

Thank you for investing in the work of justice!

For every \$1 invested, BREAD leverages \$41 back into the community.

BREAD CLERGY CORNER (Pastor Trip Porch, Indianola Presbyterian)



Trip has been pastor at Indianola since July 2020. He and his family (Brittany, Ward, and Arden) live in Clintonville and love being rooted here in the diverse, creative, vibrant city of Columbus.

Trip grew up in the beach town of Pensacola, FL where he received a foundation in the arts, academia, the underground punk scene, coffee houses and the justice work of the civil rights movement. He received his B.A. from Florida State Universi-

ty and M.Div. from Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA.

BREAD OFFICER CORNER (Rabbi Hillel Skolnik)

Rabbi Hillel Boaz Skolnik was ordained at Jewish Theological Seminary of America in May, 2011. After serving as the rabbi of the Southwest Orlando Jewish Congregation for seven years, Rabbi Hillel and his family moved to Columbus in the summer of 2018 where he now serves as Senior Rabbi of Congregation Tifereth Israel.

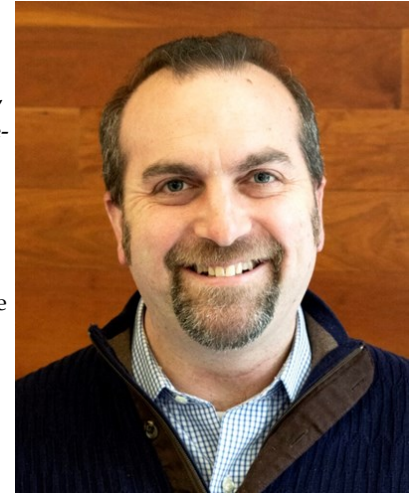
Born in New York, Rabbi Hillel spent his entire childhood in Forest Hills, Queens. He is a graduate of both the Solomon Schechter School of

Queens and the Solomon Schechter High School of Long Island. Before beginning Brandeis University in 2002, Rabbi Hillel spent the year in Israel as a participant on the Nativ Leadership Program where he enjoyed wonderful learning at the Conservative Yeshiva as well as volunteering in the potato and carrot fields of Kibbutz Saad. In December of 2005, he graduated Brandeis University (cum laude) earning degrees in Politics and Near Eastern Judaic Studies, a unit of

Clinical Pastoral Education, acting as a chaplain at Bellevue Hospital in Manhattan. In addition, Rabbi Hillel served for a year as the Rabbinic Intern and Hebrew School Principal at the Shelter Rock Jewish Center in Roslyn, NY.

In addition to his Judaism, Hillel is passionate about many things in life, including his family, Israel, and ultimate frisbee.

It was back at Brandeis that Hillel met a wonderful woman named Sharon Barr,



who now goes by the name Rabbi Sharon Barr Skolnik (ordained from JTS in 2009). The two were married on June 18, 2006 and have since brought two beautiful daughters and a wonderful son.

2022 BREAD ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Because of our past efforts on affordable housing, the Franklin County Commissioners continue to approve \$6.5 million for affordable housing helping at least 200 families per year access safe, decent housing. In addition, Columbus & Franklin County have an Affordable Housing Trust with revenue of about \$4 million of public dollars. In 2021, this fund has helped to finance the develop-

ment of over 13,000 units of affordable housing since 2001.

Nine Restorative Justice Circles are in place to prevent children from entering the Juvenile Justice system. These circles should save the people of Franklin County approximately \$2.2 million dollars by diverting them from the court system.

Neighborhood blight is disappearing through the Franklin County Land Bank with annual revenue of about \$3.5 million dollars. The land bank has demolished nearly 4,000 vacant units.

We celebrated a commitment from former Columbus City Councilmember, Elizabeth Brown, to work with us on public & private tree protection ordinances.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (UPDATE)

W. D. Smith from our Environmental Justice committee reminded us that "People are suffering now from increased rain and flooding...and worsening air quality. Trees protect us and we protect trees!" Rosalie Hendon and Steve Horhut from the Columbus Department of Recreation and Parks attended our Annual Assembly and committed to post-

ing the Request For Proposal for a consultant for a private tree protection ordinance by November 30th. We're happy to report that this did happen! We'll have more updates to share soon. Juanita Bradley, a Network Member from Rhema Christian Center, also shared her story of an expensive reme-

diation after her basement flooded leading to mold. You can view that clip here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aT-s1E8ogOo>

"Trees absorb rainwater, lower temperatures, and improve air quality. We must protect our mature trees NOW to preserve their benefits for decades to come."
- Jessi Sadaka, EJ committee

UPCOMING BREAD EVENTS

NEHEMIAH ACTION

Tuesday, April 25th, at 7:00 pm. Location: Celeste Center, Ohio State Fairgrounds (717 E. 17th Avenue, Columbus, OH 43211). We're working to bring together 2,500 people together (socially-distant) to press for solutions to the problems. We've invited public officials to the event to respond with a clear "yes" or "no" to implementing solutions. This is an in-person only event.

won solutions by bringing thousands of people to the Nehemiah Action to show public officials that we want these solutions! Network Members are the key to building our "people power" so that we can continue to win more solutions.

Each of the congregations involved in BREAD are working toward the vision of 52/1! This means that we want the same number of people that we see at services each week, 52 times a year, to show up once a year to do justice - at the Nehemiah Action.



BUILDING PEOPLE POWER

The importance of people power for the 2023 Nehemiah Action (April 25th)

We are actively working to win solutions that will benefit our community. We have

THE BRIDGE TO THE NEW JUSTICE YEAR

Organized people united for the cause of the marginal segments of our society... fulfilling what God requires of His people (Micah 6:8)

2023 BREAD OFFICIALS

Co-presidents:

Rabbi Hillel Skolnik – Congregation Tifereth Israel
Bro. Vince Ford – Church of Christ: Genessee Avenue

Vice president:

Noel Williams, First Unitarian Universalist Church

Recording secretary:

Jan Hauenstein, Justice Ministry Collective. All are welcome.

Treasurer:

Norm Wernet – St. Stephen's Episcopal

Corresponding secretary:

Rev. Charles Leister – New Beginning Christian Center

WANT TO INVEST IN OUR WORK?



Venmo: @BREAD-Organization



Cash App: \$BREADOrganization



Pay Pal: Robert Sievert-Wagner
(bread.organization@sbcglobal.net)

Checks: Made out to "BREAD Organization"
With your Congregation's name in the memo line,
(if not part of congregation- write who invited you to invest.)



Mail to our office at:

**BREAD Organization
404 South Third Street,
Columbus, OH 43215**



Want to invest directly from your bank account?
Contact your organizer or call the BREAD office
(614-220-9363) for BREAD's bank routing and
account numbers.

2022 ANNUAL ASSEMBLY (CHRIST THE KING)

Hundreds of BREAD Network Members joined together in-person and online for reports on our various research committees. We heard an update from Columbus Safety Director, Robert Clark, about our work to decrease violence. In support of our work with Clark

to see the Group Violence Intervention Strategy, he noted: "I know every single case that happens...every shooting that happens...and it's still too much. We will never police our way out of the problem we have in our community. We need to make our community safe

and make sure our residents feel safe...There must be a holistic approach."

Calvin Cunningham, a Network Member from Rhema Christian Center, shared his story of being shot while driving home after dropping off his niece. Photo attached

and the clip can be viewed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=buRIYjreZBU>



NETWORK MEMBER HIGHLIGHT (ROSALIE WYNN)

Appreciation of network members, emphasizing their role and a selection and highlight of one active member, their congregation and contribution

Rosalie Wynn has been a long-time Network Member at the Church of Christ that meets on Genessee Avenue. She writes: "My motto about learning is 'Teach them

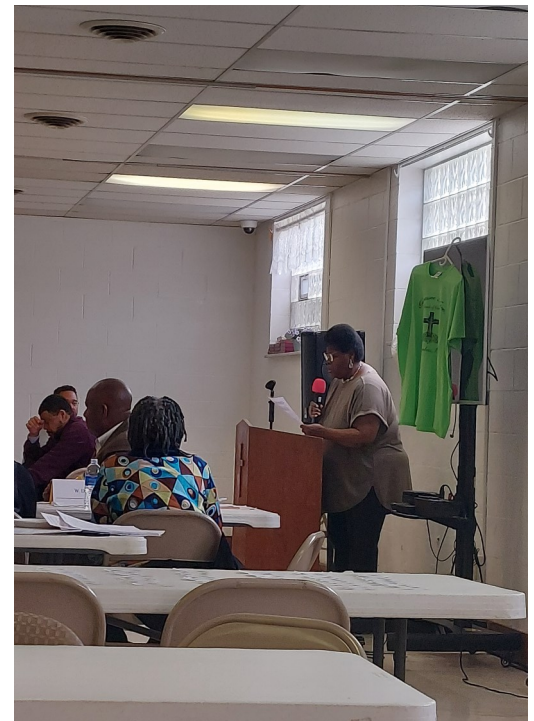
young! Children are like sponges and are eager to learn.' I feel that my calling from GOD is to inspire children to learn and grow and realize their full potential." Sister Wynn has also led the childcare efforts at the Nehemiah Action for multiple years.



BREAD CONGREGATIONS

Advent United Church of Christ
Bethany Presbyterian Church
Christ Lutheran Church
Christ the King Catholic Church
Christ United Methodist Church
Church of Christ on Genessee Ave
Columbus Baha'i Community
Columbus Mennonite Church
Community of Christ
Congregation Beth Tikvah
Congregation Tifereth Israel
David's United Church of Christ
Dominican Sisters of Peace
Faith Lutheran Church
First Congregational Church (UCC)
First Unitarian Universalist Church
Gethsemane Lutheran Church
Good Shepherd Baptist Church
Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

Indianola Presbyterian Church
J. Jireh Ministries Church
Karl Road Christian Church
Lord of Life Lutheran Church
New Beginning Christian Center
New Faith Baptist Church of Christ
North Broadway United Methodist
North Congregational Church (UCC)
Redeemer Lutheran
Rhema Christian Center
St. Alban's Episcopal Church
St. Christopher Catholic Church
St. Dominic Catholic Church
St. Elizabeth Catholic Church
St. Francis of Assisi Church
St. John's Episcopal Church
St. Matthias Church
St. Philip's Episcopal Church
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
St. Thomas More Newman Center
St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church
Temple Beth Shalom
Trinity Episcopal Church
Triumphant Christian Center



BREAD ORGANIZATION

404 SOUTH THIRD STREET
COLUMBUS, OH 43215
Phone: (614) 220-9363

We ARE ON THE WEB...
BREADCOLUMBUS.COM
FACEBOOK
YOUTUBE
INSTAGRAM
TWITTER

BREAD HISTORY, MISSION AND METHODS

BREAD (Building Responsibility, Equality, and Dignity) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit and non-partisan organization. We were founded in 1996 and are currently made up of 44 member congregations representing the religious, racial, socio-economic, and geographic diversity of Columbus and Franklin County.

BREAD's Mission

Our mission is to powerfully address serious community problems by holding public officials accountable to implementing proven solutions. While non-profit work is often associated with direct service (providing immediate and often temporary relief to victims of community problems), BREAD operates differently by engaging in direct action. By building the power of organized people in our commu-

nity, we work to hold decision makers accountable to solve the community problems that create victims in the first place.

How We Win Justice

We win justice by engaging in relational community organizing. We believe that to solve community problems, you first need to know the community and its concerns. More than that, BREAD strives to be the community by reflecting the

religious, racial, socio-economic, and geographic diversity of Columbus and Franklin County in our membership and leadership. We organize around the principle that those who are impacted by community problems should have a say in the solutions that our city and county pursue, and so BREAD builds the power of organized people to amplify these voices and give them a platform to engage directly with officials. Together,

BREAD...Rises!