



Trouble the Waters, Heal the World

**Strengthening Leadership Development Opportunities
Throughout the Volunteer Experience:
A Conversation about Justice Ministry Education**

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*Ground your activism in spirit.
Deepen your faith through justice work.
Become more resilient.
Discover a community.*

Justice Ministry Education (JME) is the only national certificate program for faith-rooted justice leadership. Justice Ministry Education prepares leaders to face the biggest moral challenges of our time. JME is for those who want to deepen the spiritual side of their activism and those who want to deepen the justice side of their spiritual work.

Participants are from all faiths and are community members, organizers, faith leaders, students, and non-profit staff or board members. They train for 300 hours, dividing their time between justice work in the field and guided learning in a small group. Those who complete the program earn a certificate from Auburn Seminary.

Regions as of 2018

Allentown	Atlanta	Chicago	Denver
Houston	Kansas City	Twin Cities	Nashville
Newark	New York City	NorCal	St. Petersburg
Utah			

“My experience was transformative in ways I could never have imagined or anticipated.”

*“It’s a great tool not only for ministers/future church leaders
but for the whole community of faith.”*

*“I was surprised at how connected I felt to my cohort and by the emotional
vulnerability I experienced when discussing many of the justice issues.”*

“What surprised me the most was how relative justice and ministry is to each other.”

Five Pillars of the Curriculum



From Participant Evaluations

For most of my life, I had thought that acting with justice meant feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, taking care of the sick, visiting the imprisoned, and giving a drink to the thirsty...I had never questioned the structural impediments to affordable housing or inequitable school funding formulas...Embracing faithful love, as expressed in preparing a meal for people experiencing homelessness or tutoring a child was familiar and good, but it was not justice. Doing justice was a separate requirement. Doing justice involved recognizing structural impediments to the full flourishing of all God's people and working to dismantle those impediments...The gift of JME is that it jump started my thinking about justice and introduced me to organizing, more specifically faith-rooted organizing.

I have grown immensely in my intentionality about embodying my theology in my day-to-day life and work. In fact, perhaps the largest area of growth and learning for me throughout this program pertains to the fourth educational outcome - "self-care and communal care in justice work." It was largely through our group theological reflections that I was able to observe or acknowledge the ways I have struggled with self-care and also the ways that I grew in naming my own needs and pursuing support to get those needs met.