

# Faith Voices of Columbia Moral Agenda 2019

In the fall of 2018, we had conversations with 3000 voters from vulnerable communities in Columbia. We formed relationships with those who are often ignored when big decisions are made, and we helped pass Proposition B and Amendment 1 by overwhelming majorities. We believe in the inherent worth and dignity of all people. We expect elected officials to create and protect policies that support these values. With our growing voter power, we call upon the City of Columbia to adhere to this moral agenda and work alongside us to make sure that all Columbia families have what they need to thrive.

**Housing Justice** - *We envision a community where all people have equitable access to safe, comfortable, affordable housing.*

We call upon the city and county to:

- commit to capital funding for a year-round, 24-hour, consolidated resource center and shelter.

We will:

- work with the city and county, human services community, development community, faith community and others to build the partnerships and human infrastructure needed to make this happen.

**Transit** - *We envision a community transportation system that serves all, including people who can't drive due to disability or economic limitations.*

We call upon the City of Columbia to:

- Increase transit funding by 20% this year.

We will:

- Hold the City Council accountable to its stated social equity values as they relate to transportation funding.

**Immigrant Justice and Sanctuary Network** - *We envision a community where neighbors, friends, and family do not fear being detained, deported, or profiled relating to immigration status.*

We call upon the Boone County Sheriff to:

- make a public statement about how deputies engage with anyone they suspect is undocumented and to make transparent their process for working with ICE.
- decline to detain people on behalf of ICE.

We call upon the Columbia Police Chief, once hired and installed, to:

- make a public message of safety to immigrant & undocumented residents.

We will:

- continue to build a sanctuary network that provides support and solidarity to immigrant neighbors, friends and family.

- continue to grow our capacity to provide accompaniment to migrants facing ICE, CBP, and justice system processes.
- fundraise and disburse funds to migrants who need support navigating the systems threatening their dignity.

**Education** - *We envision a community where every child has access to a high quality, free, public education and that all students and their families are welcomed, included, and protected in the school environment.*

We call upon the school board to:

- Acknowledge and address our community's participation in the school-to-prison pipeline.
- Make a public statement in regards to the safety of undocumented students and students of undocumented parents.
- Ensure that redistricting does not segregate our students, particularly with regard to race and socioeconomic status.
- Mandate better support for students with neurodiversity needs and their families

We will:

- hold a school board forum to address issues relating to students of color, students with disabilities, and students of immigrants & undocumented parents.
- support and develop the leadership of parents as advocates, particularly those who are parenting children with neurodiversity needs.

**Justice System** - *We envision a community where every person is safe and free, where policing is dismantled because neighbors are supported in addressing the root causes of violence and crime, and where punitive measures are replaced by restorative justice processes that take both harm and humanity seriously.*

We call upon the city council and city manager to:

- Ensure community policing principles are present at every level and in every act of policing from recruitment and hiring, to training, to community engagement and call responses.
- Recruit and hire a new police chief who demonstrates both understanding and commitment to the principles of community policing.
- Examine and improve the police force's anti-bias training at every level.

We will:

- develop training for congregations to learn about the racist history of policing in America, to engage conversations about divesting from policing, and to develop skills of bystander intervention and restorative justice.
- work on a bail fund to help folks awaiting trial to get out of jail, while advocating for the Boone County court system to end the racist and classist practice of cash bail.