



Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church  
789 Merrimon Avenue  
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www.gcpcusa.org

May 28, 2020

Dear GCPC Community:

During this time of pandemic, the GCPC Serve Council continues to be committed to being led by the Spirit to build mutually enriching relationships with Ministry Partners, as well as justly disperse funds shared by our congregation to impact our community and world.

For the past three years, Serve has emphasized equity-building and because of this, partnered with nearly forty organizations, who are addressing justice issues such as, homelessness, food insecurity, and racial disparities. We have been blessed to be in relationship with so many incredible Ministry Partners and to support the vital work that they are doing to transform God's world for the better.

Two aspects of this work that we are hoping to improve upon in 2020 are finding ways to cultivate especially deep relationships (something that can be a challenge when working with such a large number of partners), as well as consciously and continuously examining our commitment to equity, so that our actions align with our convictions. The Serve Council's commitment to this work has inspired us to begin exploring ways to share decision-making power with directly-impacted people, who know best how to address the root causes of injustice. In addition to this, during this time of pandemic, we have seen the ways that the institutional/systemic racism that has long-harmed Black and Brown bodied people is being exacerbated, and people of color are being most negatively impacted. Therefore, the Council believes that now is the time for GCPC to respond boldly and faithfully to this reality.

After an intentional and prayerful process of discernment, the Serve Council unanimously voted to select 13 of our Ministry Partners, led by people of color, to be our 2020 GCPC "Covenant Partners." These Covenant Partners will receive immediate funding in order to support the work that they are doing right now, and to help their work continue on through these uncertain times. We also hope to be creative and intentional about deepening the relationships we have already begun to cultivate with them.

We would like to direct the majority of our 2020 budget to these Covenant Partners, but we will maintain an emergency fund in order to try to respond to particular financial requests from all of our Ministry Partners. Please know that funding is not the only way GCPC supports its Ministry Partners. We will continue to offer all partners free advertising for events, encourage volunteers, participate in gatherings, and provide free meeting space (once our church can be open again).

We will keep the congregation aware of the Serve Council's continued prayerful discernment and work. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. We give thanks for all of the ways the Spirit continues to call us to faithfully serve.

**Please see the list of 2020 Covenant Partners on the next page.**

Yours in Justice and Peace,

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Chair, Serve Council  
Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church



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## **2020 GCPC Covenant Partners**

1. **Asheville Writers in the Schools and Community:** AWITSC ignites social change through the power of the arts, culture and restorative self-expression. Youth led.
2. **BeLoved Asheville:** Community-led, addressing issues of housing, justice, oppression, economic disparities. Connecting people from diverse backgrounds to use their voices, skills and unique gifts to transform their lives and communities.
3. **Bountiful Cities:** The Asheville Buncombe Community Garden Network facilitates resource sharing (increasing community capacity, a tool library, seed saving, volunteers) and garden education. Funds support free educational workshops for Community Garden Network participants.
4. **Center for Participatory Change:** Multiracial leadership whose vision is collective liberation, la liberación del pueblo. CPC creates spaces for learning, healing and relationship building, for example, its Black Love group that supports resiliency and mental well-being.
5. **Colaborativa La Milpa (a collective with Nuestro Centro, CIMA, PODER Emma and others):** In response to COVID-19, this collective coordinates teams to provide financial and material support to Latinx families. For example: food vouchers, masks, referrals, and a bilingual Case Manager.
6. **CoThinkk:** CoThinkk is a black-led giving circle dedicated to social change philanthropy by investing our time, talent and treasure to accelerate positive changes in communities of color in Asheville and Western North Carolina. Community. Collaboration. Commitment.
7. **Faith 4 Justice Asheville:** Provoking justice for and with black and brown bodied people. Black-led gathering for faith formation.
8. **Hood Huggers International:** Builds greater communication, connection and wealth in systemically marginalized neighborhoods in the Affrilachian region through the arts, environment, and social enterprise. Black-led organization.
9. **JMProTV:** Produces live Spanish-language programs, reports, cultural notes, and interviews about issues affecting our community (such as racial equity, immigration, education, health, etc.). Topics are reported from the perspective of the people impacted, and stories are shared through social networks.
10. **Residents Council of Asheville Housing Authority:** Council for public housing residents; led by public housing residents. Collaborating with Southside Kitchen to feed 300-500 seniors and public housing residents with disabilities each week.
11. **SOS: What They Don't Teach You:** Empowerment, partnering with Life Connections to support people who are incarcerated and their families.
12. **WNC Workers' Center:** Led by/in direct relationships with immigrant workers in hotel, restaurant and general industries. They have a rapid response fund. They “build power among workers of color through organizing, education and direct action, from an intersectional standpoint, to promote worker justice.”
13. **Youth Transformed for Life (YTL):** Works with children and their families to overcome current disparities in education to help them thrive in the inequitable school systems. Afterschool program held at GCPC, when school is back in session and the building is able to open again.