



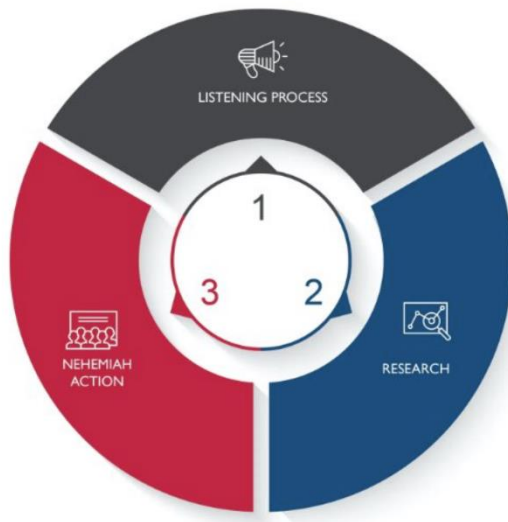
ICARE

Interfaith Coalition for Action, Reconciliation and Empowerment

We believe in the power of organized people

ICARE is a network of 38 Jacksonville congregations working across racial, religious and socioeconomic lines to pursue justice. Through direct action, we use our people power to hold public officials accountable for issues of fairness affecting our community. BBUUC has been a member of ICARE since August, 2014.

We uncover, research and take direct action on community problems using a three-part process



LISTENING

Every year ICARE leaders meet with others from their congregation to discuss community problems. Through these conversations, common areas of concern emerge. Leaders then vote to determine a few major priorities to focus on.

RESEARCH

ICARE leaders form research committees to determine viable solutions that will resolve the problems long-term, as well as the public officials in Jacksonville who have the authority to implement those solutions.

ACTION

ICARE then holds a large public meeting called a Nehemiah Assembly. Supporters from our 38 member congregations (usually over 1,000) gather to negotiate solutions with public officials in attendance.

LEARN MORE

- [BBUUC ICARE Justice Ministry Network Blog](#)
- [Jacksonville's Interfaith Coalition for Action, Reconciliation & Empowerment](#)
- [Direct Action & Research Training Center](#)

Is justice part of your spiritual journey? Contact BBUUC's ICARE Justice Ministry at icare@bbuuc.org.

Doing Justice Since 1997



- 2002** Launched a campaign to get bus routes from areas of low-employment to areas of great job growth. Helped secure \$2 million in federal "Reverse Commute" grants, allowing JTA to add a bus hub at Gateway Mall. This connects the North and South side of town and is still used by hundreds each day.
- 2009** Won commitments from six area hospitals to seek the World Health Organization's "Baby Friendly" certification, an international recognition of maternity facilities that provide optimal support to breast-feeding mothers. This played a major role in reducing Duval County's infant mortality rate to a 20-year low.
- 2010** Challenged the Early Learning Coalition and the Jacksonville Children's Commission to make full-day pre-kindergarten care a priority. They set aside funding that enabled 1,000 more students to register for pre-kindergarten programs and 300 more families to receive full-day vouchers.
- 2013** Pressed the schools superintendent to create a restorative justice program for youth offenders. This brings the victim and offender together and allows peers to decide on restitution alternatives to school suspension. Within a year, 11,000 students participated and out-of-school suspensions decreased by 25%.
- 2017** Challenged the sheriff and state attorney to issue civil citations to, rather than arrest, nonviolent youth who make silly mistakes, like stealing socks or drinking underage. Police in Jacksonville now use civil citations for over 90% of eligible youth, helping them avoid a lifelong criminal record. 97% of these youths never reoffend.



People of faith are called to do justice

Will you help?

The Interfaith Coalition for Action, Reconciliation & Empowerment (ICARE) asks you to join us for the

Nehemiah Assembly 2022

WHEN: March 28 @ 6:45 pm – 8:45 pm

WHERE: Zoom or phone, Click [here](#) or email icare@bbuuc.org for instructions

Or join us at for a group **Zoom viewing, 6:15-9:30 p.m. at BBUUC**

ICARE is a coalition of 38 Duval County congregations that come together to address citywide concerns of justice and fairness. We identify community problems and research solutions. Once a year we turn out over 1,000 people to a great assembly where we ask elected officials to make commitments to take action. This is our Nehemiah Assembly.

We'll ask city leaders to

1. Stop Over-Policing, use Civil Citations for Minor Offenses

Over two-thirds of arrests in Jacksonville today are for minor offenses, like driving on a suspended license, trespassing, disorderly conduct or loitering. These laws are disproportionately enforced against people of color. Civil Citations hold adults accountable for minor offenses without saddling them with a lifelong arrest record.

2. Reduce Neighborhood Violence

Jacksonville is the murder capital of Florida. But research shows half of violent crimes are committed by gangs or groups, which are only 0.6% of the population. The sheriff office's Group Violence Intervention program languished during Covid. A contract with the National Network for Safe Communities would get it back on track.

3. Build Resilience to Climate Change

Jacksonville may not sit along an ocean shoreline, but as sea level rises, the tidally influenced St. Johns River puts us at great risk for storm-induced floods. Vulnerable neighborhoods are often poor. Florida is preparing for climate change with \$500 million in infrastructure grants annually. Jacksonville must consider climate change in a flood vulnerability assessment in order to apply

The prophet Nehemiah once compelled the community's nobles and officials to return the houses, fields, vineyards and children which had been taken through exploitative lending practices. He accomplished this act through a great assembly.