



Justice Seekers Online Network and Resource Center

In response to urgent needs for churches to find the best resources available to help them pursue their most needed social justice ministries and protect the most vulnerable among us following the recent national election, the California Council of Churches is ramping up plans to create a statewide **Best Practices Network and Resource Center** to offer support, training, and empowerment to thousands of congregations in our mainline and progressive member denominations in every corner of the state to identify and address the social justice issues they feel are most pressing in their local communities. We will accomplish this by gathering **Best Practices:** actions and resources from our member denominations, judicatories, and congregations and creating an online Justice Seekers Resource Center for issues they support effectively in housing, food, medical help, community gardens, coops, etc., provide useful reading materials as well, both spiritual and practical, and provide public policy training and advocacy to empower local congregations to advocate on the local and federal levels for compassionate and just policies to protect and lift up our neighbors.

Our Key Issues for Education and Advocacy

Civil Rights. Assuring everyone has equal access to justice, to opportunities, to fair treatment.

- Upholding CA laws. Supporting CA requirements that all police be accountable and that the existing registry of offenders be maintained. Supporting and expanding CA hate crimes laws.
- Support and enforce women's access to reproductive care and the preservation of 'best practices' in maternal care for all women.

Racial Equity. Assuring that CA laws and benefits both public and private in no way discriminate against any population.

- Addressing racial inequities in our criminal justice systems.

Immigration Justice. Support our allies dealing with immigrants and their safety.

- Renew our commitment to National Farm Worker Ministry.
- Support legislation where needed.

Homelessness. Continue to support the maintenance of food assistance and medical care which are likely to be lost federally.

- Support funding for affordable housing.
- Move some of our work to the county level where legislation is enforced well or badly depending on the county.
- Move other work into congregations to better serve homeless communities.

Sustaining Families and Children. Advocate for public education, health care for all, and childcare and other supports for poor and working families.

Climate Change. Support our allies in the work on ending climate change. Uphold the CA clean air and water standards via new legislation and public actions such as water conservation.

The California Council of Church and California Church IMPACT represent 52 judicatories in 21 mainline, progressive, and orthodox denominations with congregations in every county and corner of the Golden State. For over 112 years, the Council and IMPACT have been at the forefront of important social justice movements, including child-labor, women's suffrage, anti-war, civil rights, farmworkers' rights, LGBTQIA+, climate change, women's reproductive rights, anti-racism, health care reform, and much more. We invite you to partner with us to protect and empower the most vulnerable among us in the face of cuts, violence, and discrimination sure to follow from our recent election. With our highly successful model of "train-the-trainers," in which we equip staff and volunteers to replicate the training throughout their region, we are uniquely trusted and positioned to achieve results far beyond expectations.

To be successful, the California Council of Churches, and our sister 501(c) 4 organization, California Church IMPACT, is looking to raise \$275,000 per year for each of the next five years (though multiple sources) to support and sustain our work.

We invite you to partner with us to make a positive difference in the lives of millions of Californians. There are multiple ways to get involved and help. Please contact us to discuss ways we can partner in this endeavor.

How Can You Help?

- Make a generous contribution to support our work
- Share and help us identify the best resources and models for various justice work from your region, congregation, denomination, etc.
- Help us identify funding sources and fund development professionals we can pursue to support this work.
-



The California Council of Churches and California Church IMPACT
PO Box 980981 • West Sacramento CA 95798-0981 • 916-488-7300
calchurches.org • churchimpact.org

The Rev Dr Rick Schlosser
Executive Director
rick@calchurches.org

Elizabeth (Libby) Sholes
Public Policy Advocate
sholes@calchurches.org