

3 Steps to Pursuing Justice in Your Church

DIACONAL MINISTRIES CANADA

“Learn to do what is right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow.” (ISAIAH 1:17)

BECOME AWARE!

- As a community, learn some basics about Biblical Justice
- Recruit members for a small group and together learn about some unjust situations in your local community or beyond
- As a small group or church, study a book, watch a film or invite a speaker
- Learn and educate about life issues like housing, employment
- Delve deeply into Scripture passages related to justice
- Pray to discern where God is leading your church
- Pray for passionate leaders

ASSESS RESOURCES!

- Church leaders with a heart for justice can have a powerful impact on the attitudes of their members. Tap into resources INSIDE your church walls:
 - Church members who have a passion for global issues
 - Congregational members who have skills (lawyers, law enforcement, social workers)
- Look to those OUTSIDE of your church walls who are willing to educate and resource your church: they are often willing to be invited to a conversation:
 - People or organizations who are already working for justice in your community
 - Social workers and police in your community

ACT!

- Do a Justice Sermon Series
- Organize a Justice Film Festival
- Mobilize resources that are already in your congregation and community
- Be supportive of those who are engaged by praying and providing words of encouragement
- Determine if your church is a safe place for everyone. Consider those with disabilities, refugees, those who struggle with mental illness, and those who have been abused
- Assess your church’s policies and procedures for injustices
- Explore your practices in how your church chooses leaders
- Link community members with congregational members through conversations
- Serve on a board of an organization in your community
- Continually ask - *are those who face injustice being empowered?*
- **Start small and start soon!**