



Park Governance

Our church is the official sponsor of the Washington Gladden Social Justice Park. We offer leadership and allow use of the land for this community-funded park as a mission of the church. The members of the Park's Governing Board, and the Trustees of the Park Funds at the Columbus Foundation are appointed by church council.

2022 ACHIEVEMENTS

Social Justice LEGENDS Exhibit

The Social Justice LEGENDS mural is a temporary exhibit that was installed in May 2022. The custom-designed, 100' mural is the latest artwork to be displayed at Jeffrey Plaza. Alan Jazak of Formation Studio of Columbus created the design that wove 160 names and 50 terms and slogans to form the letters for JUSTICE that can be seen a block away. Park volunteers and staff of the Columbus Metropolitan Library did the research to identify a representative sample of social justice trailblazers from Central Ohio whose good works and good trouble spans over 200 years.

Although these social justice legends are no longer with us, they inspire us to follow their example and seek justice for all. Several past members of our church are included in the listing of legends: Amy Allen, Rev. Bill Barndt, Wallace Cannon, Jr., Dorothy Cromartie, Dr. Will Fernarld, Rev. Dr. Washington Gladden, Celia Jeffrey, Nancy & Tad Jeffrey, Helen Peterson, Arlene Reynolds, Amos J. White, Jr., and Bill Willis, Sr. Efforts will be made to solicit proposals for an art feature that will serve as a permanent backdrop for the park. The original exhibit (Columbus Social Justice Pioneers) will become a mobile exhibit accompanied by a study guide and teacher resources.



Pathway of Justice

In May, five new guidestones were installed in the Pathway of Justice. They include quotes from the following social justice leaders within their professions: Andrena Sawyer, Robert Shaw, Coretta Scott King, Hillary Rodham Clinton, and Edmund Burke. The guidestones honor Gerry & Marty Worth, Carol & Jim Gallagher, Barbara Nicholson, Alec Deitz, and Jim Fewless. Since May two more guidestones have been sponsored for future installation. In just three years, 44 of the possible 60 guidestone sponsorships are completed or in process.

Justice Brown Bag Series

Although the park's Justice Brown Bag Series did not resume in 2022 because of COVID restrictions, we look forward to its resumption sometime in 2023.

Park Funding

The total of park gifts and grants since its origin is \$2,008,000. The \$1,255,000 spent from the beginning of the park's development until the end of 2022 includes: \$7,000 Administration, \$71,000 Maintenance, \$17,000 Programs, \$266,000 Art Projects, \$150,000 Infrastructure Improvements (funded by City of Columbus), and \$744,000 Construction. The park's maintenance endowment held by the church has a balance of \$451,000.

Washington Gladden Social Justice Park - bringing Columbus together to build the path to a better future through art, education, and constructive dialogue.