

Ten Opportunities for Involvement in Social Ministry

As you reflect on your experiences with JustFaith Ministries, consider how the Holy Spirit is calling you to new or renewed commitments. The following categories and questions are designed to help surface some ideas for engagement.

1. Direct Action/Service - *Working to meet immediate needs, especially of those who are poor and most vulnerable*

Questions to ask yourself: Are you tugged to work one-on-one with people in need? In what context? What skills and gifts do you bring to this kind of ministry? Do you like working with service agencies, volunteering at a soup kitchen, helping at a homeless shelter or emergency assistance facility, assisting Habitat for Humanity?

2. Legislative Advocacy - *Endeavoring to influence city, state, or national policy*

Questions to ask yourself: Do you like communicating with legislators and/or representatives on key issues? Do you feel drawn to political engagement, to promoting structural change or influencing public policy? What draws you? How can you imagine yourself involved? Is there an organization that particularly appeals to you? What legislative network(s) can you connect with?

3. Justice Education – *Preparing and presenting educational materials and programs on social justice issues and action opportunities for your church and community*

Questions to ask yourself: Do you have an interest in educating others or in assisting with the education of others? How might this happen? Do you prefer working with adults, teens or children? How can you promote justice formation activities? Are you interested in promoting JustFaith Ministries and other programs at your church?

4. Community Organizing – *Coming together with poor and low-income people in an organization that identifies problems and takes action to achieve solutions to those problems*

Questions to ask yourself: Do you want to work with others on problems in your community? Do you like strategizing for change? In what ways can you get involved with promoting structural change in your local community? Is there a community organizing group in your local community? How can you get others from your church to participate in an organizing group with you?

5. Leadership – *Influencing or helping to influence the behavior of other people on justice-related issues and on project work; having followers*

Questions to ask yourself: Are you being called to lead a group or a project? Do you want to become part of a social ministry leadership team within your church? What leadership skills do you have and enjoy? Are you interested in being a facilitator for a JustFaith Ministries group?

6. Simpler Living - *Making lifestyle changes that reduce consumption and use of resources and redirect those resources to those in need*

Questions to ask yourself: What ways can you simplify your life, use fewer resources, change your buying habits, and/or change how you use your free time? Do you ever think about changing jobs? If so, why? Have you thought about downsizing your home? If so, what is prompting you to do so?

7. Financially Supporting Justice Work - *Contributing monetarily to groups or organizations that do justice work on a local, national, or international level*

Questions to ask yourself: Are there projects or causes that you are drawn to support? List these. How can you discover other organizations to financially support that are doing structural change in areas you are interested in? Who do you need to talk with to find out more?

8. Public Witness/Demonstrations - *Joining others in a public demonstration in support of a justice issue*

Questions to ask yourself: Under what circumstances would you consider joining a public demonstration? What issues would compel you to do so?

9. Continued Formation - *Taking deliberate steps to open your heart and mind in new ways and to allow knowledge to transform and change you*

Questions to ask yourself: How can you continue your formation in social ministry and your church's social teaching? How do you learn about justice issues? What books or periodicals do you read? What educational events do you attend? Are you part of a small community of faith?

10. Global Solidarity - *Working on legislation and projects that impact people in other countries and/or building relationships with poor people in other countries*

Questions to ask yourself: What global solidarity projects are you interested in? What projects is your church already involved in? What news stories about other countries tug at your heart or continue to resonate with you long after the story has dropped out of the news? What personal experience(s) in another part of the world have you had that have remained with you?