

Regional Justice Coordinators

Purpose of the Role

Regional Justice Coordinators strengthen justice ministries across Ohio by building networks, convening partners, and encouraging collaborative action among churches, ecumenical partners, and community organizations.

The Coordinators help cultivate a statewide movement for justice rooted in the Gospel and informed by the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church. Through networking, education, and collaboration, Coordinators support congregations and partners in responding faithfully to the inequities and challenges present in our communities.

Part of this work is to “decolonize” justice ministry by liberating justice work from traditional structures that may unintentionally limit participation or reinforce inequities. Coordinators help expand leadership and engagement so that justice ministry emerges through collaboration, shared leadership, and community partnerships.

The Coordinators are not primarily program managers but network builders who catalyze justice engagement across congregations, organizations, and communities.

Areas of Justice Ministry

Each Regional Justice Coordinator will focus on the intersectionality of the following areas of justice ministry while partnering with others in their region:

- Ecumenism and Interfaith dialogue
- Racial and ethnic equity
- Environmental and creation care
- LGBTQIA+ inclusion and equity
- Women’s equity and leadership
- Immigration advocacy and care
- Poverty alleviation for children and adults
- Mental health awareness and support

Regional Structure

Six Regional Justice Coordinators will serve across Ohio in the following regions:

- Cambridge Region
- Cincinnati–Dayton Region
- Cleveland–Akron Region
- Columbus Region
- Toledo Region
- Youngstown Region

Responsibilities

1. Network Building
 - Convene monthly in-person or online gatherings (12 per year) with individuals and organizations working in their justice focus area
 - Build relationships with churches, districts, ecumenical partners, and community organizations
 - Encourage collaborative initiatives that advance justice ministry within the region
2. Education
 - Connect with ecumenical educational opportunities annually in their region related to their justice focus
 - Work with partner organizations to co-sponsor or promote justice-focused learning opportunities
3. Statewide Collaboration
 - Participate in two meetings per year with the other Regional Justice Coordinators
 - Participate in two meetings per year with the Director and Board Chairs
4. Communication
 - Coordinate District offices to promote resources, and opportunities for engagement
 - Share information about justice initiatives with churches and partners across the region
 - Connect with East/West annual conference connectional ministries to share resources and perspectives, keeping connectional ministries informed about networks, education, collaborative efforts
 - Participate in annual planning meeting for Connectional Ministries
5. Estimated Time Commitment
 - Approximately 5–8 hours per month depending on regional activity and partnerships.

Qualifications

- Commitment to justice ministry grounded in Christian faith and the Gospel
- Familiarity with or openness to engaging the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church
- Experience building relationships and partnerships across organizations
- Ability to convene and facilitate collaborative conversations
- Experience mobilizing volunteers or coordinating community initiatives
- Emotional and spiritual maturity for engaging across differences
- Ability to remain grounded in challenging conversations often present in justice work
- Demonstrated reliability and consistent communication
- Initiative and collaborative leadership capacity

Support and Supervision

Regional Justice Coordinators will receive:

- Two statewide gatherings annually with other Coordinators
- Two meetings per year with the Director of Multicultural Ministries and Board Chairs
- Introductions to ecumenical partners and justice networks across Ohio
- Access to Conference and District communications platforms
- Guidance and support from the Boards of Multicultural Ministries and DEIB

Compensation

- \$6,000 annual stipend
- Reimbursement for approved travel and program materials

Application

Application Deadline: April 30

Applicants should submit:

- Completed application questions
- Resume
- Two references

Send applications to: Lisa Withrow - Lrwithrow@me.com

Application Questions

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

1. What interests you about serving as a Regional Justice Coordinator?
2. What experience, gifts, or background prepare you to serve in justice ministry within your region?
3. Describe how you build partnerships, mobilize volunteers, or engage communities around shared goals.
4. How do your personal faith commitments inform your engagement with justice concerns?
5. What partnerships have you developed outside the United Methodist Church that could support this work?
6. Describe how you communicate and build trust among people with differing perspectives.