

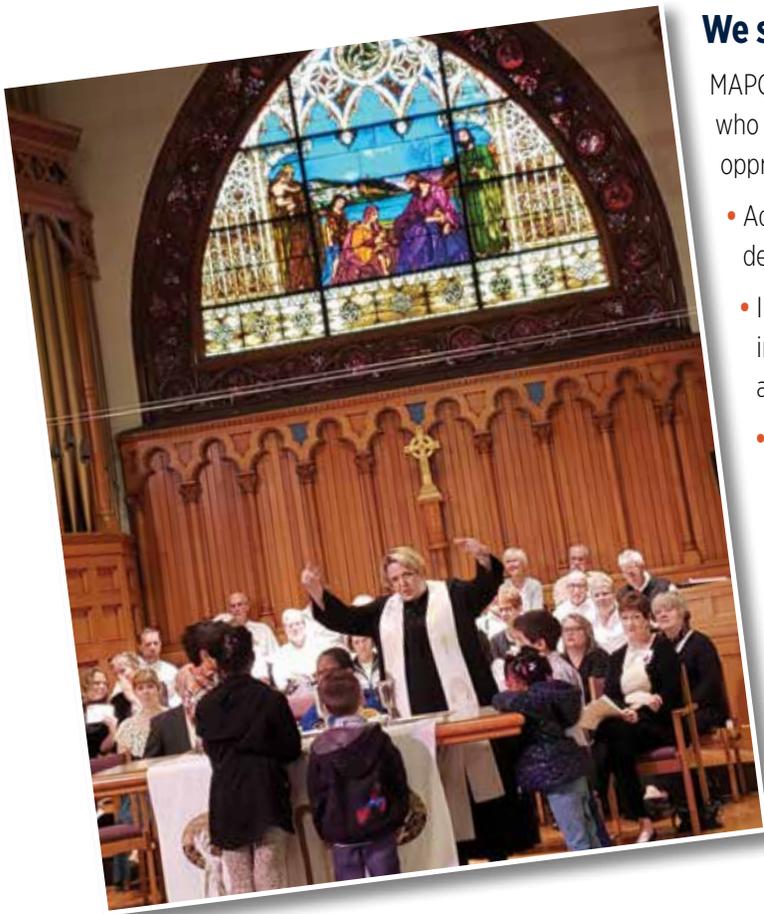
Investing in a Just Future

Mount Auburn Presbyterian Church

December 2018

Dear Friends,

Our recent celebration of 150 years of ministry gave us many opportunities to see how God has blessed this congregation and called us to be a blessing to each other and the community around us.



We stand in a legacy of love and justice.

MAPC has long been a faith community of welcome for those who are unwelcome elsewhere and a community of justice for the oppressed. In recent years our energy and resources have:

- Advocated successfully for greater LGBTQ equality and inclusion in our denomination and city.
- Initiated conversation with our Presbytery that introduced the importance and urgency in becoming Earth Care congregations and advocates.
- Supported a wide range of social justice organizations serving vulnerable persons with our finances, hands-on work, and by offering a home in our building as space sharers.
- Opened to others our beautiful sanctuary for concerts and programs, inviting others to share in our joyful spirit.

We are poised for the future, ready to move forward.

Bringing our past work together with the ideas and vision you shared with us recently, we are ready to take the next bold step in our ministry. We are calling this endeavor ***Investing in a Just Future.***

Investing in a Just Future priorities originated from interviews and concerns we heard at group meetings with many members of our congregation, and have been approved by Session.

It addresses these important questions: How can we build on our tradition of radical inclusion, expand our commitment to conscientious living, and grow in service to the most vulnerable in our community? In short, what are we called to do next?

We live by the words “For whom much is given, much is expected.”

When we see a need, among our congregation members or the community at large, we are ready to pitch in to help. *Investing in a Just Future* positions us to do more, better. These are the three focus areas identified with our members and approved by Session:



Social Justice Pastoral Residency

Many recently graduated seminarians find it difficult to land a first church position, especially those who are LGBTQ or belong to other marginalized communities. MAPC will establish a residency program to provide an opportunity for a qualified candidate to grow in their pastoral identity in our welcoming, progressive environment, while serving our growing needs, including a greater public presence in the community.



Earth Care Stewardship

One of the single most critical issues of our time is climate change. Reducing our carbon footprint is a matter of moral responsibility as well as fiscal practicality. *Investing in a Just Future* enables us to take our commitment to the earth and advocacy for sustainability to the next level, and provide a model that we can share with other congregations in our Presbytery and beyond. It continues to build on our past improvements to make our facility more energy efficient.



Justice in Housing

We have a strong commitment to a broad range of social justice issues, but many of you have said you are ready to dig in deep, to focus so we can make a meaningful, visible difference. The issue confronting many in our community is finding safe, secure, and affordable housing – for themselves and their families. Session has formed a special task force to identify this opportunity further and how we can play a significant and positive role to help those in need. To quote Matthew 8:20 – And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.”

Investing in a Just Future is about investing in justice for our city, justice for our church, and justice for creation. These priorities are linked by a common principle – conscientiously building strength, respect, support and advocacy for our congregation, our earth and others.

We will be sharing more information and details in the coming months through this special newsletter, on our website and in special meetings. We hope you will add your voice to our discernment and be an enthusiastic supporter as we share our faith journey together – as we continue *Investing in a Just Future*.

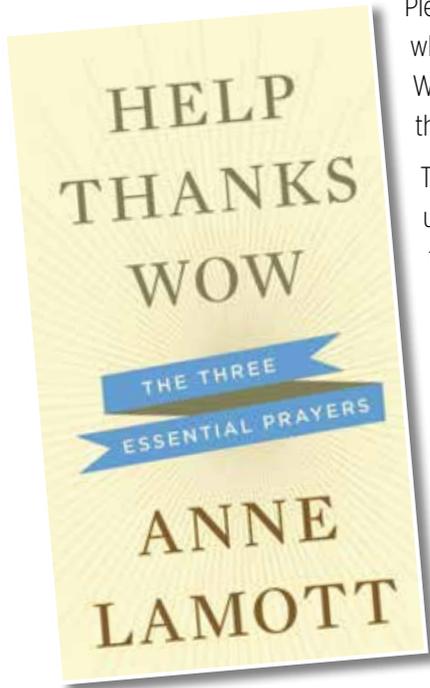
Yours in Christ,

Rev. Stacey Midge, Pastor

Bill Bogdan, Co-Chair

Mary Carol Melton, Co-Chair

HELP, THANKS, WOW



Please consider the *Investing in a Just Future* contribution opportunity prayerfully. Respond to what the spirit is calling you to do to support our faith community and our responsibility to others. We will provide special prayer and meditation opportunities for us, together, as we move through this process.

The simple prayers offered by Anne Lamott from her book *Help, Thanks, Wow!* provide guidance to us. About prayer, Lamott says: “Prayer is private, even when we pray with others. It is communication from the heart to that which surpasses understanding. Let’s say it is communication from one’s heart to God. Or if that is too triggering or ludicrous a concept for you, to the Good, the force that is beyond our comprehension but that in our pain or supplication or relief we don’t need to define or have proof of any contact with.”

Our church, our city, and our world have many needs. As we begin *Investing in a Just Future* together, we pray Anne Lamott’s first simple prayer: “Help!” Will you join us in praying for this effort, as we ask God to help us meet the needs before us? As you consider the gift you feel called and empowered to provide, we invite you to pray for God to continue to show us where there is need and how we are called to step in to meet it with the resources we have been given.

Investing in a Just Future Committee

Committee Chairs Bill Bogdan
Mary Carol Melton

Commitment Response Jane & Bill Hopewell

Events Rev. Stacey Midge
Van Ackerman
Rob Bell

**Communication
& Information** Lynn Hailey

Contact Care Marlene Muse

CREATE John Hancock
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Leadership Gifts Judy Cunningham

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**Plan Administrator
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Prayer Valerie Bernardino
Judy Lindblad

Finance & Stewardship Susan Thomas