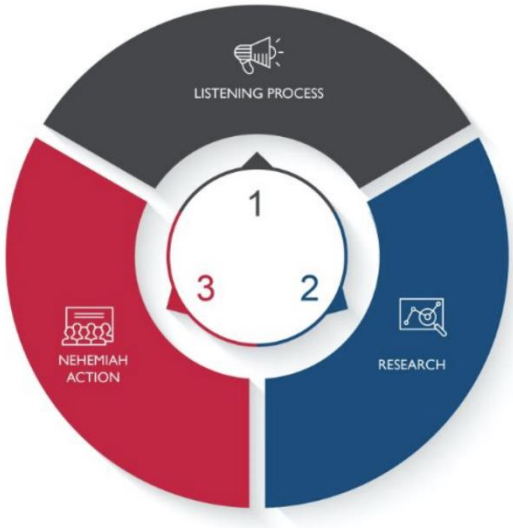
ICARE

Interfaith Coalition for Action, Reconciliation and Empowerment

We believe in the power of organized people

ICARE is a network of 38 Jacksonville congregations working across racial, religious and socioeconomic lines to pursue justice. Through direct action, we use our people power to hold public officials accountable for issues of fairness affecting our community. BBUUC has been a member of ICARE since August, 2014.

We uncover, research and take direct action on community problems using a three-part process



LISTENING

Every year ICARE leaders meet with others from their congregation to discuss community problems. Through these conversations, common areas of concern emerge. Leaders then vote to determine a few major priorities to focus on.

RESEARCH

ICARE leaders form research committees to determine viable solutions that will resolve the problems long-term, as well as the public officials in Jacksonville who have the authority to implement those solutions.

ACTION

ICARE then holds a large public meeting called a Nehemiah Assembly. Supporters from our 38 member congregations (usually over 1,000) gather to negotiate solutions with public officials in attendance.

LEARN MORE

- BBUUC ICARE Justice Ministry Network Blog
- Jacksonville's Interfaith Coalition for Action, Reconciliation & Empowerment
- Direct Action & Research Training Center

Is justice part of your spiritual journey? Contact BBUUC's ICARE Justice Ministry at icare@bbuuc.org.

Doing Justice Since 1997

2002 Launched a campaign to get bus routes from areas of low-employment to areas of great job growth. Helped secure $2 million in federal "Reverse Commute" grants, allowing JTA to add a bus hub at Gateway Mall. This connects the North and South side of town and is still used by hundreds each day.

2009 Won commitments from six area hospitals to seek the World Health Organization's "Baby Friendly" certification, an international recognition of maternity facilities that provide optimal support to breast-feeding mothers. This played a major role in reducing Duval County's infant mortality rate to a 20-year low.

2013 Pressed the schools' superintendent to create a restorative justice program for youth offenders. This brings the victim and offender together and allows peers to decide on restitution alternatives to school suspension. Schools now use restorative justice 41% of the time. Suspensions have dropped by over half.

2017 Challenged the sheriff and state attorney to issue civil citations to, rather than arrest, nonviolent youth who make silly mistakes, like stealing socks or drinking underage. Police in Jacksonville now use civil citations for over 90% of eligible youth, helping them avoid a lifelong criminal record. 97% of these youths never reoffend.

2019 Bolstered our sheriff and state attorney to become national leaders in data transparency, by creating data dashboards that report prosecution, homicides, use of police force, and other statistics on their websites.