



MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL of CHURCHES

2020 at the Massachusetts Council of Churches

You do not just give *to* the Massachusetts Council of Churches; you give *through* the Massachusetts Council of Churches. When you give to the Massachusetts Council of Churches, you ensure that all have access to information and support, not just the churches with staff, historic wealth, or financial resources.

In 2020 alone, the Massachusetts Council of Churches led work that no single denomination or local church could do on its own, in addition to the [One Church Fund](#), such as:

- **Anti-Black Racism:** collaborating on the [Boston Black Memorial for George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbury](#) broadcast [statewide](#), working in coalition to [pass policing reform](#) in the Massachusetts Legislature alongside the [African Methodist Episcopal Church](#), and offering workshops for with local churches on Christian responses to white supremacy.
- **Mental Health:** leading multiple seminars for clergy on [pastoral care and trauma](#); initiating a 28 Head of Church joint letter "[Lament and Live: A Letter to the Churches in New England](#)" and related media coverage in [Western](#) and [Eastern](#) Massachusetts; clergy open-office hours for support.
- **COVID Response:** creating a [central and dependable hub for information](#); regular convening of denominational leadership to coordinate statewide COVID responses for houses of worship; working with state, city and federal officials on [protocols for church closures and re-openings](#); mapping church properties and emergency staging areas with FEMA; ensuring just access to information and resources; creating a [first-in-the-nation guide to Christian Funerals during COVID](#) with public health officials; teaching churches to apply for Payroll Protection Program; and when we saw that only some churches were able to access PPP, working with the MA Congressional Delegation to document barriers to equal access.
- **2020 Election:** coordinating between interfaith, civil and law enforcement for steady communication; creating congregational guides for [election preparedness](#); training violence prevention strategies around voting during the 2020 election and aftermath, including equipping over 100 clergy statewide with de-escalation training.
- **Media Relations:** resourcing every major media outlet in the region to ensure accurate, diverse and attentive religion coverage; media coaching and consulting with local church pastors and leaders in times of conflict and increased media visibility; proactively telling stories of hopeful, just, honest witnesses to our communal life, with stories from the [One Church Fund as a model of just philanthropy](#) or doing public theology on [prayer](#), [death](#), and [productivity](#).
- **Lydia Fellows:** convening and supporting [bi-vocational ministers](#) for fellowship, support and mutual learning, even in the midst of enormous upheaval.

None of this is possible without the creativity, skill, network, and credibility of the Massachusetts Council of Churches, and this wide, diverse and faithful network of individuals, congregations and denominations.

With your financial support, you are a witness to a different future of communal resources, mutual necessity, and shared joy. God bless you.

Give at <https://www.masscouncilofchurches.org/donate> or send checks to Massachusetts Council of Churches at 138 Tremont Street, Boston MA 02111.