

First Presbyterian Church Advocacy Committee History and Mission

The Advocacy Committee is a subset of the Outreach Committee. It was formed in the spring of 2019 in response to the church's Strategic Plan, a core tenet of which is "Engaging and Embracing the Needs of the City." The committee's mission is to serve Christ in the Heart of Charlotte by being the "eyes and ears" of First Presbyterian Church in the community; attending community events which address poverty, racism, educational opportunities and other social justice issues and infusing these issues into church programs and functions

The committee has 4 basic objectives:

- To learn about the needs of members of our community, particularly those suffering from poverty, racism, and other forms of injustice, and those organizations which are seeking to address those needs and issues;
- With the prior approval of Session, to represent First Presbyterian Church in the community and at community events addressing these needs and issues;
- To make recommendations to the Outreach Committee as to how First Presbyterian Church can be engaged in addressing these needs and issues including their systemic causes;
- To provide information to the congregation about ways that individual church members can get involved in the work of addressing needs and issues in the community including their systemic causes.

As members of the Advocacy Committee seek to increase our own awareness around the impacts of poverty, racism and other forms of injustice and to better understand the perspectives of everyone, especially those who are suffering, we will offer opportunities for the congregation to join us on our journey of learning via readings, videos, book discussions, community events and more. Our goal is to share ways to understand, connect with, and engage Christ's community outside our church walls in ways that are consistent with Jesus' teachings.

The Advocacy Committee invites input from the congregation. Contact information for the committee's chairs is provided below.

Hal Clarke - hclarke61@aol.com

Lisa Dillard - lisa.a.dillard@gmail.com

John Tate - johnatate3@gmail.com