

STM Social Justice Meeting Minutes Sept 13, 2026

The St. Thomas More Social Justice Commission strives to put Faith into Action, serving all Creation with a keen awareness of Catholic Social Teaching.

Opening Prayer - "God of Blessings" from EcoJesuits COP27 Climate Summit

Review of August minutes - no changes

OLD BUSINESS/UPDATES:

1. **Fairtrade Sales** – Total sales from this weekend \$1020
 - Dates for upcoming extended sales (Click on link to sign up): [October 17&18](#), [November 21& 22](#), [December 5&6](#), [December 19&20](#)
2. **STM LGBTQ+ Faith Sharing** - Adam - continuing to meet, share fellowship, discussed Outreach article.
3. **STM Friends and Families Group** - Kim - In process of establishing mission statement; Kim and Mary to develop final draft for group to review.
4. **Racial Equity Report** - [August Minutes](#). Ruby Bridges speaking at Hancher on 10/5/2026, free admission but tickets required.
5. **Catholic Worker House Meals - Food and servers needed!!**
 - [Oct 4, 2026 11 AM to 2 PM](#)
 - 10th Anniversary Celebration, STM Social Hall, November 8th
6. **Green Team Update** - Multiple Season of Creation events
 - Next meeting: Monday, October , 7:00PM
 - **Film screening** - "[Groundswell](#)" at STM September 13, Third installment in restorative agriculture documentaries ("[Kiss the Ground](#)" and "[Common Ground](#)").
 - Stations of the Cross after 9AM Mass 9/17/26
 - Peace Pole ceremony after 9AM Mass 9/22/26
 - Earthcare retreat at STM Saturday, Oct 10th - 9AM to 3PM - [see fliers](#)
7. **Food pantry collection and distribution** -
 - Knights of Columbus are providing delivery to local food pantries
 - Better awareness and promotion discussed - Bulletin and Mass announcements, "[The Last Shall Be First](#)" tote bags to be distributed at Masses the week prior to food collection, starting October 17/18th.
 - **We will need to create signs and display totes the weekends of distribution.**
8. **Social Justice/ Tithing Grant Discussion and approval** -

\$13,628 is available for grants this cycle. All applicants requested \$2500. List will be forwarded for check distribution. Parishioners nominating each agency will be notified.

Applications and funding approved:

DVIP/RVAP ("The Row" - new housing units)(\$2500)

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Inside Out (Direct services)(\$2500)
Table to Table (General fund)(\$2500)
Iowa City Catholic Worker/Escucha Mi Voz (general fund) **received \$1,000 in March**(\$1500)
Healthy Kids School-Based Clinics (General fund)(\$2500) Coralville Food Pantry (Free Community Meal Program)(\$2000)

NEW BUSINESS:

9. **CRC Coat Drive** (Linda) **Week of October 11th at The River Community Church**
STM to collect coats and wearable winter clothing and boots 2 to 3 weeks prior to distribution. Will need to confirm collection and storage area availability at STM. Volunteer signup pending, will be forwarded when available.
10. **Diaper Drive** - (Tom) Supports Coralville Community Food pantry. Diaper delivery and packaging event planned for October 21st at CCFP. STM to collect diaper donations the first 3 weekends in October. Signup for packing event to be forwarded when available.
11. **Stewardship Fair Sept 19/20 after all Masses**
Tables for each Commission in the Social Hall
Social Justice and Green Team will share a table. Informational materials will be available at the table.
****Volunteers Needed!!****

12. Inside Out Re-Entry Simulation

Inside Out in conjunction with the University of Iowa College of Law will be presenting the Re-entry Simulation at the Unitarian Universalist Society September 24 from 4:00-5:30 p.m.

Volunteers are needed for set up and to work at the various stations.

No experience necessary.

Helpers for set up are needed at 3:00.

Station volunteers should be there by 3:30 for a brief orientation and training.

Please sign up below by September 17 if you are available to help.

[Sign up here](#)

FUTURE PLANNING:

12. **Succession Planning** - Kim stepped down as co-chair in August, Tom to remain co-chair for 1 more year. Preference for overlapping co-chairs going forward, with a 2 year term for each chairperson. Who is interested?
13. **Catholic Social Teaching Education and Awareness**
 - Catholic Social Teachings to be included in Tithing grant announcements and promotions, focusing on a few teachings each tithing cycle to connect CST with tithing, charity and justice.
14. **Collaboration/Organization of Initiatives & Communication** -
Bi-annual meetings of representatives from each STM commission.
Next meeting: **Oct. 27, 7 to 8 PM**

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Next Meeting - ?October 18, 2026 9:45 AM in MPR