

Juvenile Justice Breakout Group

Questions:

1. Where are juveniles detained before they go to court?
2. What's the aggregate disproportionate adverse outcome for African-American youth?
3. What exists, or who provides, legal advice for the youth and their families?
4. What disparities exist in early childhood education?
5. What does it cost the public when a youth is trapped in the juvenile justice system?
6. How has privatization of jails affected the juvenile justice system?
7. How can we stem the black male dropout rate?
8. When did/do schools start referring juveniles into the justice system?

Ideas & Actions:

1. Community conversations at St. Paul Methodist Church, Roanoke (Carroll Carter, pastor); initiative to create an environmental education center to teach skills and knowledge to sustain healthy communities
2. Mandatory pre-K (starting at 3 months) for all kids in homes where they receive Medicaid, welfare to work, or have an incarcerated parent
3. Redirect money from ourselves to our children within the African-American community—take care of ourselves
4. Reaffirm interconnectedness among churches and institutions and shared mission and purpose
5. Truth-telling: retake control of the narrative about the realities of life in the African-American community and *create* the information to be distributed
6. Teach critical “reading” of media in ALL disciplines so that everyone can better evaluate racist or stereotypical portrayals of individuals and communities and see how African-Americans are devalued and dehumanized
7. Help whites understand how racism affects and wounds them, too
8. Diversity education for teachers: whites need to be able to understand white history in relation to minorities and to combat the soft bigotry of low expectations
9. Understand that race is a sociological construct but a false reality: we have multiethnicity, not races
10. Dismantle an insulting political system that pulls from the past: overcome historical trauma