



BUILDING ON COMMON GROUND

TRANSFORMING LIVES. STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES.

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS:

Bethel Temple COGIC
 Catholics for Peace and Justice
 CMPerceptions: A Fine Art Gallery
 Community Baptist Church
 Congregation Beth Jehudah
 Congregation Emanu-El B'Ne
 Jeshurun
 Congregation of Sisters of
 St Agnes
 Core El Centro
 Corinth Baptist Church
 Gesu Parish
 Grace Lutheran Church (LCMS)
 Hanson Dodge Creative
 Hopewell Baptist Church
 Immanuel Presbyterian Church
 Invisible Reality Ministry
 Islamic Society of Milwaukee
 Marquette University
 for Common Ground
 Mt Calvary Church LCMS
 Mt Hermon Baptist Church
 Mt Horeb Baptist Church
 Mount Mary College
 North Shore United Educators
 OK Organization
 Pilgrim United Church of Christ
 Progressive Baptist Church
 Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church
 St Anthony on the Lake
 St Catherine Congregation
 St Francis Cabrini Parish
 St James Episcopal Church
 St Luke's Lutheran Church
 St Mark's Episcopal Church
 St Martin of Tours Parish
 St Michael Parish
 St Paul Episcopal Church
 Tippecanoe Presbyterian Church
 Transformation City Church
 Uniting Garden Homes, Inc.
 UU's United for Social Justice
 Unitarian Universalist
 Church West
 Village Church (ELCA)
 Wauwatosa Presbyterian Church
 WI Nurses and Health
 Professionals

Editor: Sharon DePue
 Layout: Ruth Vonderberg

• TEAM MEETINGS

• EDUCATION

Date: Thursday, December 15
 Time: 6:30—8:00 pm
 (6:00 pm briefing — see below)
 Place: Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church
 4801 W. Capitol Drive
 (parking in rear)
 Childcare available*

EDU Briefing: Please join us at 6pm
 prior to the Education Team meeting
 to ask questions and get updates
 from EDU team leaders.

*Reserved childcare available with your
 RSVP —\$5 for two kids, additional \$3
 for more children. RSVP to Julie Lange.

• FORECLOSURES (Milwaukee Rising)

Date: Thursday, January 5
 Time: 7:00 pm
 Place: St. Catherine's Parish
 51st and Center

• HEALTHCARE

Date: Monday, December 5
 Time: 7:00 pm
 Place: St. Mark Episcopal
 2618 N. Hackett

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Common Ground is an organization of organizations. Our members are congregations, businesses, religious groups, unions, schools, non-profits, neighborhood associations and civic groups. As a member organization, you are able to request the time of Common Ground's staff to help work on issues that are of concern to your members. If you're interested in supporting or joining Common Ground, please contact us.

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN



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NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Christopher McIntyre, whose company **CMPerceptions** is among the newest Common Ground member organizations, believes that CG is a great fit with his personal vision of social justice, in its purest form, as blossoming from sacrificial group effort.



CMPerceptions is a photography and film fine arts company that focuses on stimulating societal change through art, art that Christopher has been driven to create since he was 12 years old. He is dedicated to crafting art with a message of life.

Over time, he has observed that Common Ground is serious about change, too, and decided that the organization is aligned with issues he cares about as well — rebuilding communities.

It is with great pleasure that Common Ground welcomes to our midst CMPerceptions and the civilizing vision it brings to the process of creating social change.



EDUCATION

For many months, Common Ground leaders of the Education initiative have been engaged in intense exploration of the elements that distinguish a successful school from one that is not. Now their attention has been directed toward successful schools in action.

The first tour of schools that have been identified as successful — public, charter, and choice — has been completed. Four schools and three Community Learning Centers (CLCs) were visited by 30 leaders, and those leaders were excited to see what is happening in some of our schools.

Thanks to the information being gathered from Common Ground's Education survey, we hope to be guided to other schools, both urban and suburban, that are working. Arrangements to tour those schools will then be made. Ultimate goal? — The identification of schools with which Common Ground wishes to work to create better options for all of our children.

MILWAUKEE RISING

The mission of Transformation City Church is to bring transformation, and they are trying to do just that. They own a duplex on the 2500 block of 45th Street where several of their members live and work to invest themselves in the neighborhood. Through these on-the-ground relationships they are currently organizing their surrounding eight blocks in Sherman Park to bring transformation. This under-resourced and hurting neighborhood is comprised of 100 duplexes with only 30% owner occupied.

Transformation City and Common Ground Milwaukee Rising intend to work with residents and owners to make needed repairs to their property, partner with other community resources to acquire and rehabilitate or demolish homes, and assist potential home buyers in acquiring homes.

It's a formidable undertaking but, working together, Common Ground and Transformation City are equipped to transform.

FRIENDS OF COMMON GROUND CAMPAIGN

CG does not accept government funds in order to remain autonomous and politically independent. We offer a variety of ways to give and encourage you to consider a recurring gift in installments every month or quarter. You can mail your contribution, or give online at: www.CommonGroundWI.org/donate.

STRATEGY TEAM

It would save a lot of time if full-blown issues campaigns sprung from the vapors completely fleshed out and ready for implementation. Alas, that couldn't be further from reality. In fact, launching an issue campaign is preceded by many months and sometimes years of research in an effort to ensure that, once launched, the campaign has every chance of success.

First, ideas are generated from the membership — they bubble up — and attract others sympathetic and knowledgeable about the issue who are also willing to do the hard work of educating themselves, developing relationships with key players, and ultimately developing a plan of action. Then the complete package is taken to the Strategy Team for evaluation of its potential for success, fit with the goals of Common Ground, and possible endorsement.

Enter the Strategy Team, the decision making body of Common Ground. Annually, leaders from CG member organizations are elected at a Delegates' Assembly to then meet monthly and provide oversight for the overall well being of our organization.

Who are the current members of this Strategy Team? And what is their member organization affiliation? Here goes:

Eileen Asbell, St. Michael's Parish
 Rusty Borkin, OK Organization
 Jason Butler, Transformation City Church
 Keith Cogburn, Lakeland Baptist Association
 Vernon Crawley, Bethel Temple
 Rod DePue, UUs United for Social Justice
 The Rev. Jean Dow, Immanuel Presbyterian Church
 Pastor Tom Eggebrecht, Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church
 Frank Finch, III, Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church
 Denise Fried, Wauwatosa Presbyterian Church
 Sue Giaimo, St. Catherine's Parish
 Jim Gramentine, St. Paul's Episcopal Church
 The Rev. Carl W. Griffin, Shiloh Baptist Church
 Jonathan Gundlach, Hanson Dodge Creative
 The Rev. Jeffrey R. Haines, Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist
 Paul Hull, Progressive Baptist Church
 Howard Karsh, Congregation Beth Jehudah
 Larry Krolkowski, Unitarian Universalist Church West
 Pastor John Laura, Corinth Missionary Baptist Church
 Deacon Michelle Puzin Mooney, St. Mark's Episcopal Church (Milw)
 Tim Nelson, Transformation City Church
 Frank Rigert, Pilgrim United Church of Christ
 The Rev. Bobby Sinclair, Mt. Hermon Baptist Church
 Mary Leach Sumlin, Community Baptist Church
 Pastor Demetrius Williams, Community Baptist Church
 Bob Connolly, Gesu Church

This is committed work, sacrificing of time and energy, so the next time your path crosses with that of a member of the Strategy Team, express your appreciation for his/her contribution to the success of Common Ground.

