HEARING THE CRIES FOR JUSTICE 2018 – FOLLOW UP ACTIONS

Hearing the Cries - attending to the pain of our sisters and brothers - and the healing we need in our hearts

- Attend the Hearing the Cries for Justice convocation to equip you and connect with other communities engaged in justice issues
- Attend an EMO movie night about jail conditions (coming this spring - stay tuned)
- Coordinate a group to volunteer regularly at a local crisis center or hospitality ministry for human trafficking victims
- Read a book about the experiences of people in prison
- Tour a prison or jail
- Stand in solidarity with supporters outside detention facilities
- When a friend or loved one shares with you how they have been hurt by violence, listen to their story without judgement
- When a loved one shares about their time in prison, or a family member’s time in prison, listen to their story without judgment
- If you do not think you know anyone who has been incarcerated or has been a victim of crime, start talking with everyone you know about your journey to learn more about criminal justice: someone you already know will probably share new perspectives with you
- Actively seek mentorship and friendship from persons who share your values and who you admire; form your own circle of support and accountability to help you lead a life of integrity toward your highest goals for changing the world
- Reach out for help when you need it

Becoming Healers - learning and practicing skills to become true change-makers

- Examine the role of racial injustice in the legal and correctional systems, and attend to the role of white privilege in your own life
- Pray daily for people in prison
- Revolutionize the language you use, to be person-centered and avoid dehumanizing labels
- Make connections between your religious values and justice issues
- Write letters to local leaders and newspapers to encourage specific reform legislation, such as Justice Reinvestment
- Send a thank-you card to officials implementing positive policies
- Get trained as a Home for Good in Oregon mentor through the Department of Corrections and walk with someone through the transition of re-entry from prison
- Get trained in trauma-informed care and trauma stewardship
- Attend a training in Restorative Justice, conflict resolution, or nonviolent communication, then practice it in your life
- Learn about victim-offender dialogue and other alternative approaches to restoring justice after harm
- Educate yourself about every issue and every person on your ballot, including District Attorneys
- Host an election party to fill out your ballots with friends, or host a watch party for a televised debate - and then debate the issues with your guests
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Healing the System - help change Oregon’s justice system, locally and statewide

- Join EMO’s lobby days in Salem to advocate for reform as people of faith
- Donate resources to support individuals and families through the re-entry transition (for example, see the needed item list at Red Lodge Transition Services)
- When possible, give a job or rent an apartment to someone with a record/on the registry
- Join Beloved Community actions, like the “Little Boxes” campaign against gun violence
- Go to law school and bring your reform mindset to your work as a law student, lawyer, and/or judge
- Change the lives of students by mentoring, tutoring, or volunteering, to interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline
- If you are a teacher, practice Restorative Justice disciplinary practices; if you are a parent, get involved in your child’s school and query ways it might contribute to the school-to-prison pipeline
- Attend your county’s Local Public Safety Coordinating Council to raise a voice from the public about public safety
- Attend Portland’s Community Peace Collaborative (a response to gang violence) or another innovative group in your area
- Host a book club to read The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander or Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson
- Run for office to raise awareness through your campaign, and commit to make real change when you win

Healing Our Communities - take action with and within your faith congregation or local group

- Dedicate a day each year as a Criminal Justice Sabbath, to learn and take action (resource guide at emoregon.org) - join us this year on July 6-8, 2018.
- Use stories from the criminal justice system in your preaching
- Bring in speakers to address your congregation, from EMO’s speakers’ bureau, or local agency or non-profit leaders
- Host an exhibit of visual artwork by incarcerated artists
- Donate books/supplies to drives for adult/juvenile prisoners
- Welcome persons with criminal records into the community, through a mission statement, lobby display, or otherwise showing your commitment - to inform visitors and members
- Analyze your congregation’s racial and socioeconomic diversity
- Educate your group about incarceration and racism, such as screening the documentary Thirteenth by Ava Duvernay
- Host a small group for family of those in prison, survivors of violence, or persons on parole
- Use Restorative Justice practices in youth groups and classes
- Educate your group about challenges facing people as they reintegrate into society after prison
- Support programs for children of the incarcerated, such as toy drives or camps
- Hold a prayer vigil whenever a U.S. state executes a human being
- Dedicate a portion of your church budget toward ministries supporting criminal justice reform and service