

Dear ACTS Members and Friends,

I hope this message finds each of you, your family, congregations, neighbors and colleagues safe and well.

The last several weeks have been intense and an opportunity for us to see our interconnectedness beyond happenstance. We have all been reminded that the actions of one can affect so many and the idea of community has been elevated.

In the last two months, I have had the opportunity to meet several ACTS members, discussing where we are as an organization and what would be helpful in moving forward. Repeatedly, I hear how critical it is for people of faith to organize and amplify the voice of those most silenced, marginalized and underrepresented in planning and decision-making. It is those people who are yet always the ones bearing the burden of impact.

Over and over I hear the need for a prophetic voice and vision to create these catalytic moments that others can jump into and effect tangible change in our community and beyond.

I also have come to understand that ACTS has needed to make some changes to increase its effectiveness for quite some time.

There seems to be no convenient time for such a change. But without the change people will continue to suffer. Whether it is inequity, imprisonment or white supremacy, oppression still beats on our doors. Much like this pandemic. While privilege creates a cushion and often a barrier for many, this pandemic reminds us that somethings don't discriminate. As humanity, we are all affected. We cannot continue to exist in our privileges, and we all have them to some degree, some more than others.

I *believe* in the **collective work** of ACTS

I *believe* that people of **faith** can make a significant impact in the lives of others

I *believe* that ACTS can be instrumental in the **dismantling** of the infrastructures that keep so many bound.

I *believe* that that our time is **now** and it has fallen to **us!**

Join me this month in **recommitting** to our *community*, the *restructure and activation* of ACTS and the efforts to *level the playing field* that our fellow humanity deserves!

"If not you, then who?

If not now, then when?

Hillel the Elder, First Century Jewish Scholar

There will soon be opportunities for us to gather and recommit:

- Rescheduling of the March **Leadership Council Meeting**
- **Town Hall Meeting**
- Statement from the Board

Please look for these things over the month,

Anglea Douglas

ACTS President