



GREENLINING



a campaign for the soul of our city

A Call to Respond

Since the death of George Floyd, and more recently Rayshard Brooks, communities like All Saints' have sought concrete ways to respond to systemic racism.

Through our relationship with Lawndale Christian Development Corporation (LCDC), initiated when All Saints' got involved with United Power for Action and Justice (UPAJ) two years ago, we have received an invitation to serve as "leaven" for a housing development envisioned as the Canaan Homes. The idea is that investing in a single model home now will catalyze the broader and deeper public and private partnerships and money needed to scale to 1,000 new homes over the next 10 years.

In response to LCDC's invitation, All Saints' is launching the **Greenlining Campaign**. A legacy of racist redlining policies, initiated by the federal government's refusal to insure mortgages in or near Black neighborhoods, and reinforced by local government policies and the action of private institutions, has robbed people of color of wealth across generations and left neighborhoods devastated by economic divestment and a lack of quality housing.

When successful, the **Greenlining Campaign** will contribute:

- **\$200,000** toward the construction of the first model Canaan Home
- **\$15,000** to support three months of salary and benefits for the recruitment and training of an organizer (already identified) from North Lawndale.

Per LCDC's March 2020 Pre-development Plan: Canaan Homes are poised to build the model and then the first three Canaan single-family homes in 2020-2021 on vacant lots, which they already own. Over five years, LCDC plans to build and sell a minimum of 20 single-family homes and rehab and renovate 20 two flats for homeownership. A revolving loan fund established in 2020 would ensure that Canaan becomes a progressive family wealth creation and community repopulation strategy.

The organizer will build the relational and political power, and she will help raise the money needed to carry out the immediate project and pursue the longer term vision. Upon successful completion of her training, this organizer would be guaranteed a full-time position with benefits through United Power for Action and Justice.

Trusting in the relationships forged through UPAJ with LCDC, we view this as a "pay it forward investment." This means we assume any profits from a sale will be reinvested in the work, and we will divest ourselves from the need to control the project, relieving the leaders in Lawndale of the burden of bureaucratic oversight that white privilege often forces on people of color.

Acting with vision and in faith, our community will forge deeper relationships that matter: with our neighbors in North Lawndale, with faith communities across the city and beyond who feel called at this moment, and among ourselves at All Saints' as we imagine where this campaign may lead us.



Our Conviction

What we do next matters.

What our city can become matters.

As a community, as people of faith, we must boldly proclaim that all Black Lives Matter.

In a city where racist systemic structures have led to extreme disparities and violence toward our Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) neighbors, we picture a different urban reality. In this historic moment, we must stand with our neighbors, and we must act.

While the murders of Laquan McDonald, George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Riah Milton, DeCynthia Clements, Ahmaud Arbery, most recently Rayshard Brooks,

and of so many more continue to reverberate across the country, while COVID-19 disproportionately kills people of color, and while the depth and brutality of the sins of racism and white supremacy are laid bare yet again in every corner of life, we cannot allow the moment or the movement to go unnoticed and un-addressed by us corporately.

As a community of faith, we envision life in a city that embodies just and safe opportunities for Chicagoans who are Black, Indigenous, or People of Color (BIPOC). We are called to build upon our commitments to racial justice and boldly stand in solidarity with our actions and words. For those of us who have benefitted from white privilege, we must use our power to help dismantle white supremacy and systemic racism.



A Kairos Moment

[This is] A moment of grace and an opportunity, a time in which God issues a challenge to decisive action... it is also 'a dangerous time, because if this opportunity is missed, and allowed to pass by, the loss for the Church is immeasurable.

1985 Kairos Document

Writing the above in *Sojourners* in March, just as the COVID crisis was coming into focus and before more police murders shook us out of our fog of inaction, the Rev. Dr. Kelly Brown Douglas said, "As we face this particular Kairos time, the church must make itself known by refusing to sit quietly by, allowing those who have long since been neglected to become expendable."

We live in a city (and country) build upon white supremacy and systemic racism, which includes housing discrimination against Black people since the arrival of the first ship of enslaved workers in America (1619). Black people have been homeowners since the end of slavery in some form or another, but never on equal terms. See <https://aas.princeton.edu/news/sordid-history-housing-discrimination-america>. The first real estate board was founded in 1858 (Baltimore), even before the American Civil War.

Where government agencies drew red lines around many neighborhoods in Chicago, they also told banks not to lend money there. Today, lending practices have not improved much [Recent studies found that lenders invested more money in one majority-white neighborhood than in all of Chicago's majority-black neighborhoods combined.](#)



Executive Director of Lawndale Christian Development Corporation (LCDC), Richard Townsell, a leader in UPAJ writes, "Black folks have experienced 70 years of COVID in North Lawndale from health disparities, unemployment, blatantly racist housing discrimination and redlining, mass incarceration, vacant lots, poorly funded and maintained schools and the list of problems that goes on and on."

Anti-Racism Work and Organizing

Our community of faith is not new to the work that brings us to this Kairos moment. Members of All Saints' Episcopal Church began a journey of anti-racism work several years ago. Highlights of the past two years include growing the Building Beloved Community Library and curating the Speak Up anti-racist training for 50+ people, partnering in the work with St. John's Episcopal Church. We reflect on our own responsibility and failures, and we are committed to organizing for change in our city.

In February 2019, our congregation joined UPAJ, with 40 people in attendance at the first meeting held in Lawndale. In the months following, All Saints' hosted two training sessions on building power and relational meetings for 46 people. Several parishioners have used their skills to meet with key legislators to help secure funding for crucial projects.

Seven months after joining UPAJ, All Saints' delivered 132 participants to another meeting in Lawndale with the new Chicago Mayor, Lori Lightfoot. Along with leaders from hundreds of other faith communities, we asked the city to turn over 1,000 vacant city-owned lots in North Lawndale, to which the city has since agreed. The opportunity to examine our power and position as a community is imminent as we work to hold the city accountable for fulfilling this agreement.

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Greenlining Our City

The North Lawndale Community Coordinating Council (NLCCC) has identified “activating homeowners and promoting homeownership” as an elemental strategy to build a more equitable neighborhood as outlined in [North Lawndale: The Next Chapter Quality of Life Plan](#) from 2018. Through authentic partnership with organizations like NLCCC and LCDC and several grassroots homeowners groups, UPAJ has actively listened, shared, and acted together, with the community taking the lead. Now comes the time for strategic investing and collective commitment through the **Greenlining Campaign**, initiated and led by All Saints’ Episcopal Church in Ravenswood.

In March 2020, LCDC put forward a comprehensive approach demonstrating the opportunity and impact affordable housing can have. Through the partnership with All Saints’ through UPAJ over the last three years, LCDC came to ask All Saints’ to be a part of this transformational endeavor and help envision our city anew, at a scale and speed the current crisis demands.



This moment to act arrives at the dawn of the LCDC Canaan Homes Plan, a component of the broader vision to build 1,000 affordable homes as a part of the Reclaiming Lawndale project. Together, the **Greenlining Campaign** will fund the first step of this project by constructing the first model Canaan Home. A note on the name from the plan:

Canaan has deep symbolism and hope for North Lawndale as it is rooted in the biblical context as the “Promised Land.” Most black people that came to the North from the deeply segregated South saw neighborhoods like North Lawndale as the Promised Land, primarily because of opportunities to work for real wages versus sharecropping and subsistence living...For LCDC, Canaan is a metaphor for the opportunity to create wealth through homeownership and create a “promised land” for everyday people.

Thank You



A community that risks, and risks, and risks again can do amazing things. Together, we can organize something for our own Kairos moment. Every gift of every size is leaven.

It makes a difference.

Thanks to your work over the years, we are organized and prepared to live in this Kairos moment with concrete action and commitment. With your time, treasure, and talent, we invite you to envision this future with us.



GIVE TODAY



Visit:
allsaintschicago.org/greenlining

Questions?

Email:
Greenlining@allsaintschicago.org

ALL SAINTS