



Drawing on the power of religions and human rights, the Kairos Center works to raise up generations of religious and community leaders committed to the unity and organization of the poor as the leading social force in the building of a broad transformative movement to end poverty. We are a center for movement strategy, coordination, and education among the poor across all lines of division.

Building a movement to end poverty, led by the poor.

Founded in 2004, the Kairos Center for Religions, Rights and Social Justice, housed at Union Theological Seminary (UTS), is a national organization committed to building a movement to end poverty, led by poor and impacted people. For close to two decades, we have worked with grassroots leaders across the country to build campaigns for economic and racial justice, from mothers and families on welfare to multi-generational communities of farmworkers and low-wage workers.

Among other projects, we co-anchor the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival (PPC), our flagship project. Launched in 2017, the PPC is a once-in-a-generation campaign, active in 45 states and with hundreds of organizational partners, that is building the political power and resolve to address poverty and its interlocking injustices of systemic racism, ecological devastation, militarism, and the distorted moral narrative of religious nationalism.



FREEDOM CHURCH OF THE POOR

Formed out of a network of leaders through the Kairos Center, and especially our *Reading the Bible with the Poor cohort*, Freedom Church of the Poor began meeting as an online church in March of 2020, just as the COVID-19 pandemic was breaking out in the US. And we come together in these times out of necessity to help end a system that is killing us. We are inter-faith, inter-spiritual, and non-religious and come from every region of the country. As a community of activists, scholars, preachers, and grass-roots justice organizations, we welcome all who wish to be a part of the movement, and all victims of empire.

Many of the founders of the Freedom Church are leaders in grass-roots justice organizations including: The National Union of the Homeless, NC Raise Up! Fight for \$15, Chaplains on the Harbor, Unión de Vecinos, Put People First! PA, and Greater Birmingham Ministries. Folks gather regularly as a community in a variety of ways: each Sunday for worship; multiple times a week for service planning; for Bible study on Wednesdays; and throughout the week for prayer. We gather as a community to support and educate each other in the movement work and to provide a spiritual space for movement leaders to reflect, mourn, and find solidarity in our work.

To find out more visit kairoscenter.org/projects/freedom-church-of-the-poor/

New Worshipping Community Resident - Freedom Church of the Poor

JOB DESCRIPTION

Kairos Center

Broadly speaking, a New Worshipping Community Resident with us will learn from and contribute to the work of the Kairos Center for Religions, Rights and Social Justice at Union Theological Seminary. [The Kairos Center](#) is a national organization of grassroots religious and community leaders dedicated to building a social movement to end poverty led by the poor. Our network of leaders and organizations have roots in organized struggles of the poor and dispossessed extending back several decades and are also on the leading edge of social change efforts today. We are one of the two anchor organizations of the [Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival](#).

Freedom Church of the Poor

More specifically, a resident will be helping to carry out the ministry of the Freedom Church of the Poor, which is to be a spiritual home for movement leaders and a place to help nurture moral leadership for the struggle to end poverty, systemic racism, ecological devastation, militarism, and the false moral narrative of Christian nationalism. We are inter-faith, inter-spiritual, and non-religious and reject the religion of empire, which blames the poor for their poverty, pits poor and dispossessed people against each other, and promotes the false narrative that poverty cannot be ended, only alleviated through charity. We are a loose network of workers, poor folks, pastors, organizers, thinkers, and fighters, dedicated to the belief that "It does not have to be this way," that God created abundance for all, not just a few.

Responsibilities

- Participate in and help to lead weekly service planning sessions.
- Reach out to leaders in the Kairos network, the Poor People's Campaign, and the Reading the Bible with the Poor Cohort, and more to invite new reflection, testimony, song, and prayer for the weekly services.
- Help identify new leaders and communities of struggle to contribute to and help grow the Freedom Church of the Poor.
- Engage in critical biblical analysis with movement leaders using the Reading the Bible with the Poor methodology.
- Create arts, culture, media and social media content for Freedom Church services as well as to spread and grow the work and mission of the worshipping community.
- Help to vision and strategize new ministries of the Freedom Church of the Poor - eg. ordination, rituals of remembrance and loss, movement chaplaincy, and more.

Opportunities

- Develop relationships with leaders and communities engaged in front line struggles for justice.
- Gain experience in online worship service planning and production. Includes technical aspects like graphic design, video production, and social media as well as theological dimensions like ritual planning, language and other forms of accessibility, and how worship leads to action/involvement within a social movement.
- Participate in Biblical analysis and discussion with scholars, organizers, and other leaders from the Kairos and Poor People's Campaign Networks.

Letter of Interest from Site Leadership

New Worshipping Community - Residency Site Application

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To whom it may concern,

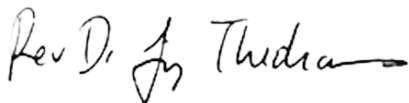
I am writing on behalf of the Kairos Center and the Freedom Church of the Poor (A Presbyterian New Worshipping Community validated by the Presbytery of New York) to express our interest in hosting a New Worshipping Community Resident for the coming year, 2022-2023.

The Freedom Church of the Poor offers a valuable and unique opportunity for faith leaders to be part of a worshipping community whose leaders and wider worshipping community are directly connected to and guided by the ongoing work of organizing a powerful social movement to end poverty, racism, militarism, ecological devastation, and the false moral narrative of Christian nationalism. In our weekly services and growing ministries, a resident will learn about the concrete struggles of the poor, hear the theological insights that are discovered through those struggles, help to develop resources and share the insights from these struggles, and be part of a spiritual community that draws its strength from active participation in social change.

The Freedom Church of the Poor is led by a diverse network of grassroots community and faith leaders from New York City and across the country. Many of these leaders play active roles in the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival and grassroots organizations and struggles of the poor. Some are theologians, preachers, organizers, people from a broad swath of faith traditions.

We hope that a resident with the Freedom Church of the Poor will bring their experience and skills in worship, organizing, art and culture, and more to help plan our weekly services, meet and build relationships with new faith communities and grassroots organizations across the country and world, and to work closely with our leaders to develop and expand the ministries of Freedom Church of the Poor.

Looking forward in the spirit of love and justice,



Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis

Co-founder, Freedom Church of the Poor
Director, Kairos Center for Religions, Rights, and Social Justice
Co-Chair, Poor People's Campaign A National Call for Moral Revival