

## What Are the Roots of Justice?



We are in crisis. Though COVID-19 is the shark consuming much of our immediate attention, we need to put it into perspective:



Like Mayor Vaughn in *Jaws*, many of our political leaders are willing to sacrifice people to retain their power and the profits of their principal donors.

Roots of Justice started with the insight that despite our best efforts to create justice, our environment continues to degrade with the most significant impact on people of color and people of poverty. We wanted to know why we were losing and what we could do about it.

We came up with the tree of justice as a metaphor for our growing understanding. Its roots are political/economic justice. Without political power, our efforts will continue to fail.

The trunk of the tree is communications. We must find and be trusted messengers if the tree is to survive.

The canopy of the tree is the many branches of justice. Activists have devoted their lives to a limb, not being able to see beyond what concerns them and often in competition not only with those on other branches and limbs but even with those sharing their own.

So how do we live our faith and build a movement that can counter money power with people power and create justice for all? How do we build solidarity within and across communities?

Representatives from UUMFE (UU Ministry for Earth), UUJEC (UUs for Just Economic Community), UUSJ (UUs for Social Justice), and Indivisibles met with three questions:

1. What is justice?
2. How have economic and political systems evolved and devolved in our lifetimes?
3. What should we do now?

We are grateful for UU the Vote and other UU initiatives that are addressing the third question. However, we see in ourselves and others the need for continuing dialogue and education regarding the first and second questions.

Please join our poster session to give input to our efforts.

Questions/comments, please contact Rev. Earl W Koteen at [earl.koteen@gmail.com](mailto:earl.koteen@gmail.com).