



September 2018

Bread or Stones Campaign Fall Board Meeting Report

Bread or Stones, an initiative of the LIC, provides an opportunity for the ecumenical church to be a moral voice for children in Louisiana. In 2018 the Annie E. Casey Kid's Count reported that youth poverty rose from 28% to 29% (a difference of roughly 10,000 children). We believe that the faith community can break the silence on these issues so that Louisiana can be a great home for all God's children.

What has been achieved

1. 88 congregations have signed up as Bread or Stones churches
2. Congregations came together in prayer in October for Children's Sabbath and in May for Bread or Stones Sunday
3. 10 ecumenical gatherings were held across the state where congregations were able to engage with our four focus areas: child and maternal health, school readiness and student retention, marriage and family supports, and child poverty reduction.
4. Covenant Congregations mobilized on two legislative issues dealing with children.
5. Monthly newsletters sent to 525 recipients, which informed them on current events, best practices, and success stories of programs for children.
6. 37% of Covenant Congregations are engaged in in a specific child issue with a local agency or organization.
7. A searchable online database of church social services was developed and put on our website www.breadorstones.com.

Moving forward

As a result of grant restraints we will be reducing the coordinator's position to part time. Ultimately the strength of Bread or Stones lies with the churches themselves that seek out ways to be a voice for children in the community. Our collective efforts can have a transformational impact on children. We are all precious in the eyes of the Lord.

Peace in Christ,
Samuel Rottman, Program Coordinator

<http://breadorstones.com/>