Dear Friends:

Interfaith Philadelphia will remember 2021 for the ways that the global pandemic turned our attention to our common humanity. We paused in May to recognize the toll that this took on our region, and to honor the loss, the sacrifice, and the resilience. We were proud to do so by creating a virtual community gathering, and honoring local and national leaders, Dr. Ala Stanford and Dr. Anthony Fauci with our Dare to Understand Award. We opened time to reflect on whatever it was that contributed to our resilience.

At Interfaith Philadelphia, we witnessed the resilience of countless faith communities who adapted their worship, study, holidays, weddings, and funerals, in ways they never imagined. We watched selfless faith leaders offer spiritual nourishment, accompaniment, community, and hope. Many told us they understood in new ways what life is like for congregants for whom “homebound” is not a temporary situation.

I can’t reflect on resilience without expressing gratitude to Interfaith Philadelphia’s strong and nimble Board and Staff. At the beginning of the pandemic, we paused to survey our constituents to see how we could help—and to discern what of our work was most essential. And then, day in and day out, our team created dynamic, virtual offerings. We equipped people to better understand their colleagues, students, and neighbors, with skills to bridge divides—and to have difficult conversations. With partners, we offered sacred presence through countless community listening sessions. Youth and adults who joined our online immersion programs repeatedly told us how they valued the chance to learn, to grow, and to meet new peers, especially at a time when they felt socially isolated. Interpersonally, our dedicated staff team cared for one another, checked in on one another, and found ways to deepen our connections, while working and programming remotely.

In the powerful words of poet Amanda Gorman:
Let the globe, if nothing else, say this is true, that even as we grieved, we grew. That even as we hurt, we hoped, That even as we tried.

With deep gratitude and respect,

Abby Stamelman Hocky
Executive Director

OUR MISSION
In order to promote social harmony and interreligious understanding, Interfaith Philadelphia equips individuals and communities for interfaith engagement, builds collaborative relationships, and stands in solidarity with our diverse peers.

OUR VISION
Since our founding in 2004, Interfaith Philadelphia has challenged the region’s residents to dare to understand one another. Our bold vision is to have our region reflect the vibrancy of a religiously diverse democracy, one in which all people are valued, distinctive traditions are welcomed, and people of diverse backgrounds collaborate to shape a just and compassionate society.
YOUTH PROGRAMS

CHESTER COUNTY INTERFAITH YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

This year, Interfaith Philadelphia launched a new initiative for a small group of driven and engaged teens to create meaningful change alongside religiously diverse peers. These youth leaders meet with community leaders and impact outcomes, dream and create events for their peers, and engage in interfaith dialogue and social justice learning.

MOSAIC

Through this innovative virtual model, generously funded by the Mary Beth Gallagher Youth Legacy Fund, middle school youth spend one week exploring the rich diversity of Philadelphia and gaining skills to engage across lines of difference.

90 PERCENT OF MOSAIC STUDENTS SAID THAT THEY WERE LIKELY TO SHARE WHAT THEY LEARNED WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

ACCORDING TO PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S "MANY AMERICANS DON'T ARGUE ABOUT RELIGION - OR EVEN TALK ABOUT IT":

➤ ABOUT HALF OF U.S. ADULTS SELDOM (33%) OR NEVER (16%) DISCUSS RELIGION WITH PEOPLE OUTSIDE THEIR FAMILY

➤ ROUGHLY FOUR OUT OF TEN U.S. ADULTS SAY THEY SELDOM (26%) OR NEVER (13%) DISCUSS RELIGION EVEN WITH MEMBERS OF THEIR IMMEDIATE FAMILY*

WALKING THE WALK® YOUTH INITIATIVE

The Walking the Walk Youth Initiative is a nationally recognized youth leadership program. Over the course of a year, high school students engage with peers in their community, explore their values and moral imagination, and participate in activities that stretch them to grow as leaders with empathy, curiosity for difference, and skills for allyship and solidarity.

100% OF YOUTH RESPONDENTS SAID THEY FELT MORE CONNECTED TO PEOPLE FROM OTHER RELIGIONS

30+ YOUTH PARTICIPANTS

“Until this program I didn't understand or know about many religions and cultures. I see how many of my peers and others around me have a lack of understanding. Before, I wasn't willing to put myself out to speak to others different than me. Now, I am committed to make things better if I hear someone put down someone else for their religion.”

– 2021 WALKING THE WALK® STUDENT

*SOURCE: pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/04/15/many-americans-dont-argue-about-religion-or-even-talk-about-it
The Crafting Community Project (CCP) is a collaborative initiative that provides interfaith and intergroup art and educational programs at the neighborhood level. This three-year project was launched with key funding from the William Penn Foundation in July 2019, with the first two neighborhood initiatives being:

**SOUTH PHILADELPHIA INTERFAITH COMMUNITY COOKBOOK**

After a year of listening sessions and surveys, the community identified the diversity of food and culture as major assets of South Philadelphia. We celebrated these strengths by creating a community cookbook which was released in December 2020, and is available for purchase on our website!

**THE COOKBOOK INCLUDES:**
- 20+ Recipes from Community Members
- Recommendations for Local Grocers and Shops
- Blessings and Dietary Practices from Diverse Faith Traditions
- Dinner Conversation Starters to Help You Dare to Understand

**COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS**

This year’s Community Conversations provided a local online space for neighbors to gather and share their ideas, frustrations, and hopes for our city.

- Responding to Anti-Asian Violence South Philadelphia
- Community-First Public Safety Kensington

**KENSINGTON GROWS, COOKS, & SERVES**

This initiative includes a series of events, workshops, and celebrations that explore food systems and grow cross-cultural and interfaith connections in the neighborhood. A Community Planter Paint Day, Storytelling Workshops, Community Cookbook project, and a Community Cook-Off/outdoor meal.

The Planter Paint Day was held at Philadelphia Scenic Works’ Warehouse, where three artists taught participants painting techniques they could use on their planters.

Community members painted personal planters. Vegetable plants for folks to take home and plant.

These planters will be installed at Library branches in Kensington.

**THE CRAFTING COMMUNITY PROJECT COMES TO WEST PHILADELPHIA IN 2022**
ART & INTERFAITH

THE ART OF INTERFAITH UNDERSTANDING
Through this series, participants have the opportunity to explore the many intersections of art and faith in partnership with the Philadelphia Museum of Art’s Division for Community Engagement.

TOPICS INCLUDED ➔
- NATURE’S REVELATIONS IN ART
- RELIGIOUS PLURALISM IN AMERICA
- GUIDED MEDITATIONS: ENCOUNTERS WITH ART EXPLORING THE SELF AND THE OTHER
- PASSOVER AND HOLY WEEK

INTERFAITH MOVIE NIGHT
At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Interfaith Philadelphia began offering virtual movie screenings and discussions over Zoom. These screenings offered a chance to gather while socially distant and spark interfaith conversation in response to short documentaries.

FILMS INCLUDED:
- Fordson: Faith, Fasting, Football
- One: Following Jesus’ Call to Unity
- A Light to the World: The Story of Bahá’u’lláh
- Waking in Oak Creek
- Tariq’s Cube

11 TOURS REACHING OVER 150 PARTICIPANTS
RESPONSIVE PROGRAMMING

DIALOGUE FACE-TO-FACE

Dialogue Face-to-Face is a new series—offered free to the public—that brings together two speakers from different faith perspectives for a conversation on a special topic, finding humor, and connections along the way. 2021 brought a special series developed and presented by young adults called Creating New Possibilities.

“My decision to wear hijab was reinforced by looking at images of women of faith wearing head covers.”
- Muslim Program Participant at “Mary, Mother of Jesus” Dialogue

SERIES TOPICS INCLUDED:
- Mary, Mother of Jesus: Catholic and Muslim Perspectives
- Racial Disparities in Healthcare
- Finding Community During a Pandemic
- Intertwining Art and Faith

SERIES TOPICS FEATURING YOUNG ADULTS INCLUDED:
- Recover and Transform: Faith in Law
- Nature’s Lessons

LISTENING & SHARING CIRCLES

Interfaith Philadelphia hosted dozens of Listening & Sharing Circles for the public in the weeks following the 2020 election. These virtual gatherings gave the chance for people to share their stories, their concerns, and their hopes for the future in a safe and respectful space.

AN IMAM, A RABBI, AND A PRIEST WALK INTO A PANDEMIC

Archbishop Nelson Perez, Imam Quaiser Abdullah, and Rabbi Jill Maderer convened with 35 members of the Young Presidents’ Organizations, an organization of CEOs under the age of 50 in Greater Philadelphia, responding to YPO’s interest in the impact of the pandemic on faith communities.

24-HOUR PRAYER VIGIL FOR JUSTICE

Spearheaded by Wayland Temple Baptist Church, Interfaith Philadelphia coordinated a 24-hour prayer for justice livestream on Facebook which included representatives from faith communities around the city.
LEADERSHIP & DIALOGUE TRAININGS

500+ PEOPLE TRAINED

CIVIL CONVERSATIONS FACILITATOR TRAINING
These trainings equip community leaders with skills for facilitating and leading important dialogues in diverse settings around the region—in workplaces, schools, congregations, and beyond. The Civil Conversations for Educators training offers additional tools and resources designed for educators and youth work professionals to facilitate dialogues with young people on challenging topics.

ACCORDING TO THE PEW RESEARCH CENTER REPORT “HOW MANY PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT FAITHS DO YOU KNOW? AMERICANS WHO KNOW A MEMBER OF A RELIGIOUS GROUP TEND TO RATE THAT RELIGIOUS GROUP MORE POSITIVELY”

VISIONARY WOMEN
Visionary Women is an intergenerational program engaging issues at the intersection of religion, gender, race, and social justice. Since its inception in 2016, Visionary Women sessions offer immersion in five religious settings and facilitate the creation of meaningful relationships in a small group environment. This year, the program intentionally highlighted Black and indigenous voices in its host communities and guest speakers, and featured a leadership track for returning participants.

DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS
In Difficult Conversations, participants hone their skills for deep listening and authentic sharing, increase their self-awareness, and gain comfort and confidence entering into tough dialogue around the important issues that shape our lives.

INTERFAITHALLY WORKSHOP
In this interactive workshop, participants learn and practice skills for interrupting harm and becoming active bystanders against hate, harassment and discrimination.

PASSPORT TO UNDERSTANDING ONLINE
Passport Online is a six-week, immersive interfaith program designed to help participants cultivate compassion, curiosity, and understanding across lines of difference. Based on the five practices of the Passport to Understanding, this series offers unique personal enrichment for those ready to challenge themselves and grow in a supportive environment.

PASSPORT TO UNDERSTANDING ESSENTIAL PRACTICES:
› BE CURIOUS
› VENTURE OUT
› WELCOME IN
› STAND TALL
› STAND WITH

“The breakout sessions were so rich and beneficial... we really got to know each other and DID the work while learning more about HOW to do it.”
– Passport Online Participant

OVER 70 PARTICIPANTS IN THE VISIONARY WOMEN 2021 COHORT

OF RESPONDENTS ARE MORE LIKELY TO WELCOME THOSE OF OTHER TRADITIONS INTO THEIR HOMES

OF RESPONDENTS LEARNED MORE ABOUT RELIGIOUS AND SPIRITUAL TRADITIONS DIFFERENT FROM THEIR OWN


Dr. Anthony Pinn | Director of National Institute of African and African-American Religion

ACCORDING TO THE PEW RESEARCH CENTER REPORT “HOW MANY PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT FAITHS DO YOU KNOW?” AMERICANS WHO KNOW A MEMBER OF A RELIGIOUS GROUP TEND TO RATE THAT RELIGIOUS GROUP MORE POSITIVELY”
Co-convened by Archbishop Nelsen Pérez, Rabbi David Straus, Imam Anwar Muhaimin, and The Rt. Rev. Daniel Gutiérrez, the Council is the first of its kind in the city, with 34 member communities, representing more than two million people of diverse faith traditions from across the greater Philadelphia region.

RELIGIOUS LEADERS COUNCIL MEMBERS 2020-2021

CO-CONVENERS
Archbishop Nelsen Pérez
Archdiocese of Philadelphia
The Rt. Rev. Daniel Gutiérrez
Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania
Rabbi David Straus
Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia
Imam Anwar Muhaimin
Quba Masjid

MEMBERS
Bishop Gregory Ingram
African Methodist Episcopal Church
Imam Muhammed Shehata
Al-Aqsa Islamic Society
Kavneet Singh Pannu
American Sikh Council
Rev. Robert Collier
Black Clergy of Philadelphia and Vicinity
Rabbi Eric Yanoff
Board of Rabbis of Greater Philadelphia
Rabbi Albert Gabbai
Congregation Mikveh Israel
Bishop Peter Hwang
Council of Korean Churches of Greater Philadelphia
Rabbi Sue Levi Elwell
Delaware Valley Association of Reform Rabbis
Bishop Peggy Johnson
Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, United Methodist Church
Rev. Stephen Kriss
Franconia Conference, Mennonite Church USA
Rev. Louis Cortes
Hispanic Clergy of Philadelphia & Vicinity
Imam N. Abdul Khabiyr
Majlis Ash-Shura of Philadelphia & the Delaware Valley
Rev. Calenthia Dowdy
Metropolitan Christian Council of Philadelphia
Imam Muhammad Miller
Mosque of Shaikh M. R. Bawa Muhaiyaddeen
Rev. William Worley
Southeast Conference, United Church of Christ
Rev. Glenn McDowell
Philadelphia Gospel Movement
Dr. Wilson Goode
Philadelphia Leadership Foundation
Christie Duncan-Tessmer
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Rev. Ruth Faith Santana-Grace
Presbytery of Philadelphia
Rabbi David Glazenberg-Krainin
Rabbinical Assembly, Philadelphia Region
Rabbi Shawn Zevit
Reconstructing Judaism
Fr. Mina Mina
St. Mary Coptic Orthodox Church in Delaware
Rev. Bonnie Carmada
Salvation Army of Eastern Pennsylvania and Delaware
Bishop Patricia Davenport
Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ECLA
Dr. Gity Etemad
Spiritual Assembly of the Baha’is of Philadelphia
Elder Vai Sikahema
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
Archbishop Borys Gudziak
Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia
Kevin Jagoe
Unitarian Universalist Association, Central Eastern Region
President Bokin Kim
Won Institute of Graduate Studies
An initiative of the Religious Leaders Council of Greater Philadelphia, Zones of Peace was established to recognize communities and organizations dedicated to addressing the root causes of violence. This year, the Zones of Peace Steering Committee presented four new banners to recognized communities, including the Southeast Asian Mutual Assistance Association Coalition (SEAMAAC), Circle of Hope, Crossroads Community Center, and Victim/Witness Services of South Philadelphia. Zones of Peace also hosted a special spinoff Gateway series in which three recognized communities, Mitzvah Circle Foundation, Historic Fair Hill, and Lutheran Settlement House, hosted virtual tours and dialogue sessions.

The Interseminary Initiative connects seminary students, administrators, faculty, and staff to collectively deepen interfaith relationships and connections among the religious leaders of the future. Highlights included two dialogue retreats for faculty and staff—a winter retreat on Religion, Race, and Identity, and a spring retreat on Constructing Community in a Multifaith & Multiracial Society.

10 PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS
**WELCOME TO THE TABLE**

The 2020 Dare to Understand Award—August, 25, 2020—honored Elder Milan Kunz on behalf of the Philadelphia Church of Latter-Day Saints and Rev. Steven Lawrence on behalf of NewCORE (New Conversations on Race and Ethnicity) for their exemplary work fostering understanding throughout the region. This virtual event also included a performance from the Interfaith Music Project, a cooking demo with the Free Library of Philadelphia, and a small group dialogue on race and faith.

**DARE TO UNDERSTAND. DARE TO SERVE.**

Over 300 people gathered online on May 26th, 2021 to honor the resilience of frontline workers and the region as a whole. During the program, those who worked on the front lines shared stories from the past year, and the community paused to honor lives lost to COVID-19. The 2021 Dare to Understand Award honored Dr. Ala Stanford of the Black Doctors COVID-19 Consortium and Dr. Anthony Fauci of the National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases for their trusted leadership at the local and national levels, shepherding us through a public health crisis with integrity and equity.
FINANCIAL REPORT

EXPENSES

$686,705.31 TOTAL EXPENSES
- INTERSEMINARY INITIATIVE: $27,820.60
- RELIGIOUS LEADERS COUNCIL: $52,060.49
- CRAFTING COMMUNITY PROJECT: $138,252.49
- INTERFAITH PHILADELPHIA LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS: $208,729.74
- YOUTH INITIATIVES: $157,822.97
- OTHER: $102,019.02

REVENUE

$696,531.98 TOTAL REVENUE
- INDIVIDUALS: $259,577.99
- GOVERNMENT FUNDS: $58,554.56
- PROGRAM FEES: $36,129.93
- RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES: $57,799.92
- CORPORATIONS: $33,609.98
- FOUNDATIONS/FUNDS: $250,859.60

$9,405.73 NET REVENUE
2020-2021 FUNDER & DONOR REPORT

PREMIER | $50,000+
William Penn Foundation
The John Templeton Foundation

TRAILBLAZER | $25,000-$49,999
Connelly Foundation
Barbara and Charles Kahn, Jr.
The Michael and Alice Kuhn Foundation
E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation
Joseph & Kathleen Sorenson Legacy Foundation

CHANGE MAKER | $15,000-$24,999
Lasko Family Foundation
Pincus Family Foundation
University of Pennsylvania Health System
Women of Vision - The Jewish Women's Foundation of Greater Philadelphia

INNOVATOR | $10,000-$14,999
Anonymous
Margaret Barry and Jeffrey Abrams
Debbie and William Becker
Douty Foundation
The Gallagher Family
Mary Beth Gallagher Youth Legacy Fund
Anne M. & Philip H. Glafelter, III Family Foundation
Maverick Partners Wealth Management

BRIDGE BUILDER | $5,000-$9,999
Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church
Peacemaking Committee
Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, The United Methodist Church

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Ellen Charry, Ph.D.
Comcast
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Clark Maxwell
Joyce Shin and Michael David, M.D.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2021 DARE TO UNDERSTAND, DARE TO SERVE SPONSORS!

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The John Templeton Foundation

CHANGE MAKER:
Connelly Foundation
Barbara and Charles Kahn, Jr.
The Michael and Alice Kuhn Foundation
E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation
Joseph & Kathleen Sorenson Legacy Foundation

INNOVATOR:
Lasko Family Foundation
Pincus Family Foundation
University of Pennsylvania Health System
Women of Vision - The Jewish Women’s Foundation of Greater Philadelphia

BRIDGE BUILDER:
Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church
Peacemaking Committee
Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, The United Methodist Church
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