# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

WWW.INTERFAITHPHILADELPHIA.ORG



#### **Dear Friends:**

Interfaith Philadelphia's call to action is *Dare to Understand*. It is an invitation to bridge people and communities in ways that evoke curiosity, humility, compassion, and love.

Our work envisions a thriving, multi-racial, multi-religious democracy. Yet building bridges across racial, cultural, and religious worlds can be messy, uncomfortable, and slow work. And while social change is inevitable, reaching for the common good requires radical accompaniment, imagination, patience, and perseverance.

Our 2022 Dare to Understand Awards recognized two leaders who embody just this kind of social change, a building project in itself. It takes institutions like Medical Missions Sisters and the Archdiocese of Philadelphia to offer resources and platforms for people like Sr. Maria Hornung, MMS and Msgr. Michael Carroll to repair and reconcile, to write and teach a new narrative, and to envision and embody new paradigms. It takes schools like Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School, one of our community partners, to invite their students to strengthen their own identities, meet and embrace others, and be more confident in the public square.

A player in this form of social change, Interfaith Philadelphia has a lot going for it. We have countless wisdom traditions to draw on, we have the fire and passion that comes from the prophets of old and those of today, and we have the unbounded will to *love our neighbors*, to welcome the stranger, and to regard each precious soul with *infinite dignity and worth*. We add creatively to the building project by offering networks, trainings, relationships, and experiences to equip people in all sectors with the skills to imagine a future where we are all welcomed and celebrated.

May we enter the future with the inspiration we take from these dedicated voices of interfaith, intercultural understanding. May we go forth with their courage to see work that needs to be done and say *I am here*. May we embrace humanity's magnificent diversity in order to build the *beloved communities* that Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. envisioned. May we, in Brené Brown's words, create *cultures of belonging*—in our workplaces, schools, congregations, and civic groups.

Thank you for joining us in building bridges to a promising future.



With deep gratitude and respect,

Abby Steinelman Hocky

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 neighbors.

## **OUR VISION**

Since our founding in 2004, Interfaith Philadelphia has challenged people across sectors 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.

# **DARE TO UNDERSTAND AWARDS:**BUILDING BRIDGES

The 2022 *Dare to Understand* Awards honored Monsignor Michael Carroll and Sister Maria Hornung, MMS, whose legacy of work contributed foundational components of Philadelphia's interreligious education and partnerships. The Awards event was held both in-person and online, and celebrated the stories of the role of the Catholic community in laying the cornerstones of interfaith work in Philadelphia.

The evening also featured moving poetry readings about the importance of understanding the "other" from 2022 Philadelphia Poet Laureate, Airea Dee Matthews. Students from Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School shared how their interfaith experiences have molded them and enriched their own connection to faith and spirituality.









# WALKING THE WALK YOUTH INITIATIVE®

After feedback from students seeking deeper engagement, we piloted a leadership training curriculum this year, providing students with the opportunity to grow as leaders with empathy, curiosity for difference, and skills for allyship and solidarity. While making new friends and exploring their values and moral imagination, youth were trained in our *Navigating Difficult Conversations* workshop, created and facilitated activities for middle school students, and planned their own MLK Day of Service.









# **ALTERNATIVE BREAK**

After a two-year hiatus, we welcomed our first in-person group since the onset of the pandemic from North Carolina State University. Throughout their week, this interfaith group visited Quaker, Muslim, Sikh, Christian, Baha'i, Santeria, and Jewish faith communities and engaged in important service projects addressing immigration, food insecurity, and interfaith dialogue.







# **MOSAIC**

This summer, *Mosaic* expanded to three weeks of programming impacting participants in South, North, and West Philadelphia. Students explored the rich diversity of their neighborhood and connected over values, games, and anime. They also created a mural, one in which each unique handprint or butterfly is essential to the whole. 100% of students shared that they are more likely to **welcome in** those from other traditions.







# **MOSAIC STUDENTS SHARED ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE:**

"MANY PEOPLE ARE DIFFERENT AND THEY HAVE VERY COMPLEX RELIGIONS... IN A WAY, WE ARE THE SAME"

"IT FELT SPECIAL"

"NO MATTER
OUR FAITH, WE
CAN STILL WORK
TOGETHER; SKIN
IS JUST A COLOR
AND IT DOESN'T
MAKE US
DIFFERENT"

"WE LEARNED TO COMMUNICATE IN DIFFERENT WAYS"

"[WE LEARNED] HOW TO SPEAK WHEN YOU NEED TO"

"TO NOT ASSUME RACE OR GENDER"

# SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS



An exciting new chapter in our youth programs brought new and renewed partnerships with Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School, Al-Aqsa Islamic Academy, the Jewish Teen Collaborative, Gesu School, Community Partnership School, and more.

Freshman Faith Fridays took place from November to May and engaged Cristo Rey students in an exploration of the interfaith landscape of greater Ph<u>iladelphia</u>.





# RELIGIOUS LEADERS COUNCIL

The Council's 34 member communities represent more than two million people of diverse faith traditions from across the greater Philadelphia region.

## RELIGIOUS LEADERS COUNCIL CO-CONVENERS 2021-2022

Archbishop Nelsen Pérez Archdiocese of Philadelphia

The Rt. Rev. Daniel Gutiérrez Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania

Imam Anwar Muhaimin Quba Masjid

Rabbi David Straus Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia



#### **RELIGIOUS LEADERS COUNCIL MEMBERS 2021-2022**

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Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister 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 Jon Cutler 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

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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

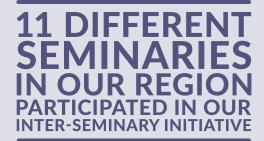
Dr. Gity Etemad Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Philadelphia

Elder Vai Sikahema The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

Archbishop Borys Gudziak Ukrainian Catholic Archepachy of Philadelphia

Kevin Jagoe Unitarian Universalist Association, Central Eastern Region

President Bokin Kim
Won Institute of Graduate Studies



#### **PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS:**

- → Drew Theological Seminary
- → Lancaster Theological Seminary
- → Missio Theological Seminary
- → Moravian Theological Seminary
- → Palmer Theological Seminary
- → Princeton Theological Seminary
- → Reconstructing Judaism
- → Respect Graduate School
- → St. Charles Borromeo Seminary
- → United Lutheran Seminary
- → Won Institute for Graduate Studies





# INTER-SEMINARY INITIATIVE

11 seminaries and institutions came together at Lancaster Theological Seminary for a retreat on the Divine Language of Music. Faculty, staff, and leadership explored the power and many forms of music, looking at its significance – and controversies – in faith communities over time.

This Spring, we also launched our first ever Student Interview Series, entitled "What Chaplaincy Can Teach Us About Interfaith Work." In this virtual series, current and former theological students shared the impact of chaplaincy on their faith and understanding of religious diversity.



# **ZONES OF PEACE**

Zones of Peace recognized 6 new communities and organizations this year, bringing the total to 90 Zones of Peace in our region. All dedicated to addressing the root causes of violence, new communities include: Mighty Writers, Laurel House, Jewish Family & Children's Services, CeaseFire PA, Local Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Philadelphia (Community Building in Cobbs Creek), and the Community Center at Visitation.

# FROM SANCTUARY TO STREET, FROM LAMENT TO ACTION

In response to the record number of gun deaths in Philadelphia in 2021, the Religious Leaders Council hosted an interfaith vigil against gun violence in partnership with Heeding God's Call to End Gun Violence. The event included an interfaith service honoring the lives lost, a remembrance and consecration of a gun murder site, and a witness walk through Center City.











This 8-month executive-level certification combines a practice-based social impact curriculum with interfaith learning and networking opportunities. Leaders and innovators gather to gain new tools, share ideas, and work on a capstone with significant potential for impact in religiously diverse environments.





# **EXPLORING IDENTITY MODULE**

This six-session deep-dive into identity brought participants together to explore their cultural stories, to share with one another about their faith and racial identity formation processes and stages, and to cultivate a rich understanding of their unique identities. Participants left with plans to broach new topics with their families and friends, as well as to become more effective leaders, facilitators, and participants in all walks of life. 90% of participants shared that after the program, they were more aware of biases and limitations in their knowledge and experience with other religious/spiritual traditions.



# NEW IN 2021!

THE LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE OF INTERFAITH PHILADELPHIA OFFERS CURATED PATHWAYS TO BUILD SKILLS, RELATIONSHIPS, AND KNOWLEDGE FOR INTERFAITH ENGAGEMENT

# RELIGIOUS LITERACY MODULE

In this new offering, 20 participants learned about Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Islam, and Christianity, hearing from 17 presenters about their experiences. Each week featured a study of one of these traditions, learning from people who practice that faith in a "living library" followed by time for discussion and integration. 100% of participants plan to take intentional action to increase interfaith understanding, and 90% of participants developed meaningful connections with people from traditions other than their own. Future offerings of this module will explore other traditions, providing a unique experience to each cohort that participates.

# VISIONARY WOMEN

50 women gathered monthly as they explored issues and intersections of religion, gender, race, and social justice. Since its inception in 2016, Visionary Women offers immersion in five religious settings and facilitates the creation of meaningful relationships. New this year, women engaged in a spiritual practice from each community as they visited the Won Institute for Graduate Studies, the Hindu American Foundation, Masjidullah, Temple Beth Zion-Beth Israel, and Arch Street Presbyterian Church in a fully virtual model.





6+ FAITH TRADITIONS

12+ DENOMINATIONS REPRESENTED

FROM AGE 21 J J J J J AGE 78





LAST YEAR, THE LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE REACHED MORE THAN TO THE TRANSPORT OF THE PROPERTY OF THE

# **ALUMNI PROGRAMMING**

Interfaith Philadelphia alumni formed an Alumni Committee, launching the *Bridges* book club, hosting panels on *Faith and Self-Care* and *Stories from the Pandemic*, and creating a "buddy" *Travel With Others* program.



# PASSPORT TO UNDERSTANDING ONLINE

In the Summer of 2021, the final cohort of our *Passport to Understanding* Online course met weekly, exploring the five practices of Be Curious, Welcome In, Venture Out, Stand Tall, and Stand With. One participant shared, "it gives me hope to know that other people are endeavoring to create a more loving interfaith world."



# THE ART OF INTERFAITH UNDERSTANDING

Participants explored intersections of art and faith through 12 tours in partnership with the Philadelphia Museum of Art's Division for Community Engagement, with topics including:

- → Models of Spirituality in Early American Art
- → Celebrations of Light in Four Religious Traditions
- → Race and Faith: Discovering Ourselves and Others While Viewing Art
- → Graven Images: Prohibitions Against Image Making and the Art of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam
- → An Illustrated Christian Liturgy

# **DIALOGUE: FACE-TO-FACE**

*Dialogue: Face-to-Face* brings together two speakers from different faith perspectives for a conversation on a special topic, finding wisdom, humor, and connections along the way. Last year's topics included listening across difference and religious communities' roles in addressing gun violence.



# **INTERFAITH MOVIE NIGHT**

Interfaith Philadelphia hosted a free screening of *Stranger / Sister*, followed by a Q&A with filmmakers and members of Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom.

# CIVIL CONVERSATIONS FACILITATOR TRAININGS

Offered in partnership with Peace Day Philly in Fall 2021, we trained community leaders in skills for leading important dialogues in diverse settings - in workplaces, schools, congregations, and beyond. Also this Fall, 17 educators were trained in a tailored workshop specifically for youth development professionals to facilitate dialogues with young people on challenging topics.

# NAVIGATING DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS WORKSHOPS

This training was offered in private and public settings this year, including virtually for open registration, privately for the PA Association of Independent Schools, and for youth at a summer camp and as part of the *Walking the Walk* Youth Initiative. Participants learned skills for navigating difficult conversations, exploring facts, values, and feelings and the role they play in these situations.



# CRAFTING COMMUNITY PROJECT: SOUTH PHILADELPHIA, KENSINGTON, AND WEST & SOUTHWEST PHILADELPHIA

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 demonstration project was launched with key funding from the William Penn Foundation in July 2019 and is currently offered in South Philadelphia, Kensington/Northern Liberties, and West Philadelphia. This past year included the completion of the Kensington initiative and the start of the West/Southwest Philadelphia initiative.





Photo Credits: Erin Blewett for Kensington Voice

# KENSINGTON GROWS, COOKS, AND SERVES

The Kensington Grows, Cooks, and Serves series celebrated the rich diversity of Kensington through food and nurtured cross-cultural connections throughout the neighborhood. To delve into the intersections of food, faith, and community, we painted planters with Philadelphia Scenic Works, distributed boxes of fresh produce, held storytelling workshops with Kensington Voice, published a blog series with local grocers and restaurants, and convened a culminating festival with cooking, conversation, and art.



Photo Credit: Erin Blewett for Kensington Voice

# PATHWAYS TRAIL

We are delighted to announce the West and Southwest Philly Pathways Trail, a trail highlighting important spaces, stories, artworks, congregations, and organizations in the area. "Stops" on the trail will showcase the history, value system, culture, hopes, and goals for the future of each community, increasing understanding across lines of difference.



Thank you to our community partners and Advisory Group members for your commitment in leading CCP!

# OUR 2022 LEARNINGS & LOOKING FORWARD

### FAITH BELONGS IN CONVERSATIONS AROUND DIVERSITY.

Faith and religion often remain hidden identity markers, forming a third rail in workplaces, social circles, and the public sphere overall. However, as conversations across the nation open up, demanding that organizations and institutions see individuals' whole selves, spiritual identity deserves a seat at the table. We will continue to support individuals, companies, and organizations as they create this space in a safe and productive way.

#### OUR WORK HAS A NATIONAL REACH, AND WE CAN'T REACH EVERYONE ON OUR OWN.

While our priority remains the greater Philadelphia region, people from across the United States participated in our virtual offerings, reached out for advice and guidance, and asked for connections to local organizations like ours. To address this, we have begun partnerships with organizations and institutions with a broader reach, such as the University of Pennsylvania Center for Social Impact Strategy and the newly branded Interfaith America. These new partnerships enable those who are not in our region to gain the skills, knowledge, and relationships that contribute to a thriving, religiously diverse democracy.

#### YOUTH INSPIRE ACTION.

Walking the Walk Youth Initiative alumni consistently lead their peers in interfaith understanding. From standing with colleagues of minority faith traditions to starting interfaith clubs at schools, our youth shape the world around them for the better. This year, we launched our Walking the Walk Leadership Program for high school students, providing a targeted, deeper entry into leadership development in the interfaith sphere.

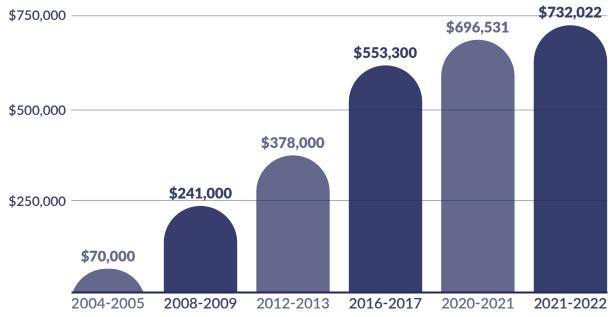


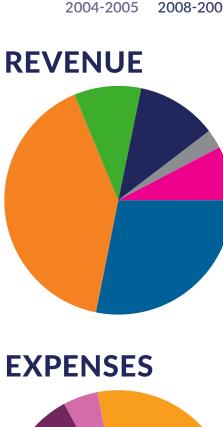




# REPORT FINANCIAL

# 18 YEARS OF INTERFAITH PHILADELPHIA'S GROWTH





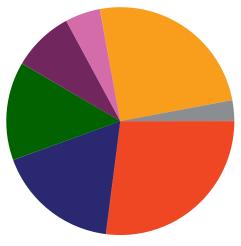
INDIVIDUALS: \$207,778.58

**FOUNDATIONS:** \$295,585.40

GOVERNMENT FUNDS: \$69,478.96 RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES: \$83.814.10

**CORPORATIONS:** \$19,520.56

OTHER [INCLUDING PROGRAM & PROJECT FEES]: \$55,829.86



LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE OF INTERFAITH PHILADELPHIA: \$191,703.76

> YOUTH INITIATIVES: \$123,725.19

CRAFTING COMMUNITY PROJECT: \$99,367.58 RELIGIOUS LEADERS COUNCIL: \$61,549.39

INTER-SEMINARY INITIATIVE: \$35,388.93

**FUNDRAISING:** \$20,897.40

**OTHER:** \$176,881.79

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## **SUSTAINER** \$1,000-\$2,499











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