



**Interfaith[®]
Philadelphia**

**2021
ANNUAL REPORT**
WWW.INTERFAITHPHILADELPHIA.ORG

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

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 **tired**, we tried.



With deep gratitude and respect,

Abby Stamelman 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 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.

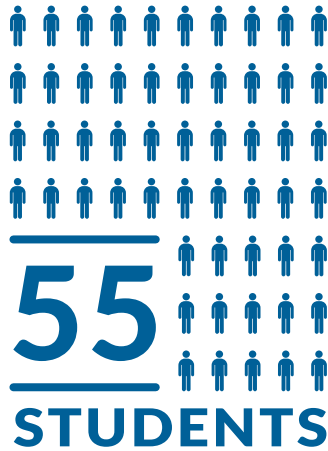
YOUTH PROGRAMS

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.



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.



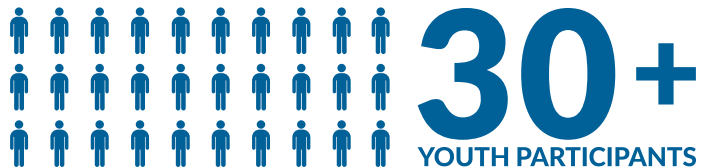
90 PERCENT
OF MOSAIC STUDENTS SAID THAT THEY WERE LIKELY TO SHARE WHAT THEY LEARNED WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS



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

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*



"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](https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/04/15/many-americans-dont-argue-about-religion-or-even-talk-about-it)

CRAFTING COMMUNITY PROJECT SOUTH PHILADELPHIA & KENSINGTON

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*



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.



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

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



11 TOURS
REACHING OVER
150 PARTICIPANTS



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

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
.....



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.

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:

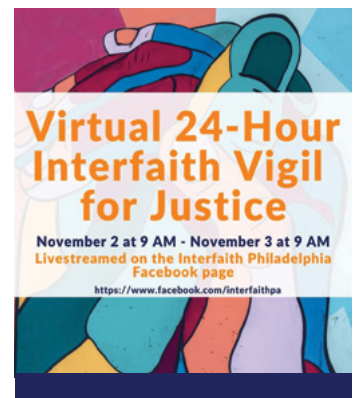
- Recover and Transform: Faith in Law
- Nature’s Lessons

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.

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*

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.



.....
"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

*SOURCE: [pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2014/07/17/how-many-people-of-different-faiths-do-you-know](https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2014/07/17/how-many-people-of-different-faiths-do-you-know)

PASSPORT TO UNDERSTANDING ESSENTIAL PRACTICES:

- ➔ BE CURIOUS
- ➔ VENTURE OUT
- ➔ WELCOME IN
- ➔ STAND TALL
- ➔ STAND WITH

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.

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.




INTERFAITH ALLY WORKSHOP



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

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OVER 70 PARTICIPANTS IN THE VISIONARY WOMEN 2021 COHORT

.....
 **85%** OF RESPONDENTS ARE MORE LIKELY TO WELCOME THOSE OF OTHER TRADITIONS INTO THEIR HOMES

.....
 **95%** OF RESPONDENTS LEARNED MORE ABOUT RELIGIOUS AND SPIRITUAL TRADITIONS DIFFERENT FROM THEIR OWN

RELIGIOUS LEADERS COUNCIL

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*

Imam Anwar Muhaimin
Quba Masjid

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



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
*Pennsylvania
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*

ZONES OF PEACE

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.



INTERSEMINARY INITIATIVE



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

DARE TO UNDERSTAND AWARDS

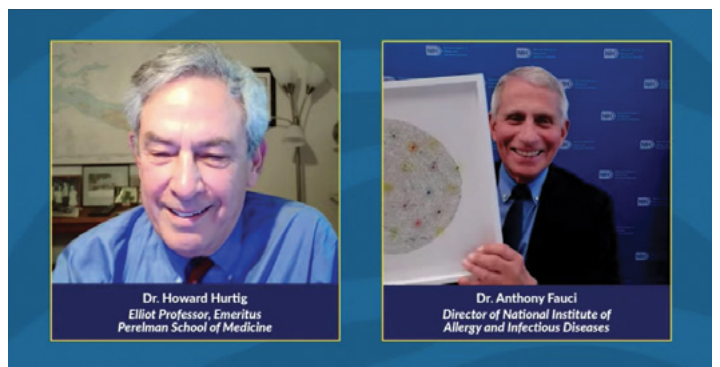
WELCOME TO THE TABLE

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

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INNOVATOR | \$10,000-\$14,999

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Maverick Partners Wealth Management

BRIDGE BUILDER | \$5,000-\$9,999

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Carrie Gish and Marc Rockford
Rabbi Carol and **Jon Harris-Shapiro**
Independence Blue Cross
Metropolitan Christian Council of Philadelphia
Scott O'Neil
Krista and Bryan Rogers
Sisters of Mercy
Abby Stamelman Hocky and Eric Hocky
Sankey and Connie Williams

FRIEND | \$2,500-\$4,999

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Archdiocese of Philadelphia
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The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Julie Dill Williams
Debbie Harrison
Randy Jenson
Jewish Community Relations Council of the
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SUSTAINER | \$1,000-\$2,499

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Elizabeth Weiler and James Shanahan
Sandra Wertheimer and Jeremy Primer
White Rock Baptist Church
David and Betsy Wice
Tom Willcox, M.D. and **Courtenay Willcox**
Bruce Winn

.....
**Orange Indicates Interfaith Philadelphia
2020-2021 Board Member**
.....

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

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JOHN TEMPLETON
FOUNDATION

CHANGEMAKER:
Penn Medicine

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