

# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

CELEBRATING  
20 YEARS



# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



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Dear Friends,

This year, we celebrated Interfaith Philadelphia's 20th anniversary and I am filled with gratitude and pride as I reflect on our journey. Our mission to bridge gaps and foster understanding of diverse faith communities in Philadelphia has shaped who we are today.

Our work began humbly, moving furniture into our offices at the Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral, our home for nearly a decade. This experience symbolized the heavy lifting required to establish a foundation for interfaith collaboration. Over the years, we have faced numerous challenges, from countering hate messages in our city to fostering dialogue during the pandemic. Through it all, we have remained committed to building relationships grounded in trust and understanding.

Our achievements are rooted in the dedication of our staff, Board, and community partners. Our programs, like the *Walking the Walk*® Youth Initiative and *Visionary Women*, have empowered the next generation of leaders to embrace and advocate for interfaith understanding. Our *Dare to Understand*® Award honors those who embody our vision and inspire others to build the kind of world we want to inhabit.

Our journey has taught us that change is a collaborative effort. It requires patience, humility, and the willingness to hold space for multiple perspectives. With your continued support, we can envision a future where Philadelphia is a beacon of the ideals imagined in our great democracy.

As we stand on this two-decade foundation, I thank you for investing in this work and for being part of our story.

With deep gratitude and respect,

Abby Stamelman Hocky  
Executive Director

## 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.

## 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.

# LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Intended for professional and personal development, the Leadership Institute of Interfaith Philadelphia offers curated pathways and experiences to build knowledge, skills, and relationships for interfaith engagement.

## Workplace Trainings and Consultations

Our expert staff assists employers in addressing diversity, equity, and inclusion issues related to religious diversity. This year, we consulted with dozens of organizations, companies, hospitals, schools, and government entities, planning and facilitating workshops, training programs, and seminars to foster understanding, cooperation, and positive relationships among individuals from diverse backgrounds.



## Leadership Institute Facilitator Training

In order to expand our capacity, the Leadership Institute launched a new initiative to train professionals to co-facilitate Interfaith Philadelphia programs. The curriculum focuses on building facilitator confidence, enhancing self-awareness, and understanding how identity impacts facilitation approaches. The 13 participants learned strategies to navigate difficult situations, be grounded in best practices for inclusive and anti-discriminatory facilitation, and develop ease in collaborative co-facilitation.

The Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools, a state association serving over 120 schools across PA and DE, engaged us to train educational leaders on *Navigating Difficult Conversations Around the Global Crisis and Polarizing Political Climate*.



## Navigating Difficult Conversations

The ongoing crisis in the Middle East left many people unsure of how to approach conversations with family, friends, and colleagues who were directly or indirectly affected. Tensions increased in schools, on campuses and in the workplace. As a result, we saw a strong demand for this offering. This year, we hosted 12 workshops for 370 participants.



## Civil Conversations

More than 200 cross-sector professionals engaged in structured, guided conversations exploring challenging and often divisive topics. They gained skills for crucial dialogue in diverse settings around the region – in workplaces, schools, congregations, and beyond. We facilitated workshops with a range of organizational and corporate partners, including the Bucks-Mont Collaborative, a health and human services membership organization. We also trained more than 40 people to facilitate *Civil Conversations* across the region.



## Build Religious Literacy

In this multi-session cohort program, participants learned about faith traditions through a “living library” of practitioners. The program covered Sikhism, Evangelical Christianity, Islam, Judaism, the Baha’i Faith, and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

# LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE



## Visionary Women

Over 50 women from multiple religious, ethnic, and racial backgrounds participated in this half-year program that explored the intersection of faith, gender, and social justice. Sessions were held at the Islamic Society of Greater Valley Forge, Beth Am Israel, Unitarian Universalists of Mt. Airy, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and Greater Community Bible Tabernacle.



## Art of Interfaith Understanding

In this series, participants explored the intersection of art and faith. Most of the offerings were held in partnership with the Philadelphia Museum of Art's Office for Community Engagement (PMA). In addition to public tours, congregations and other organizations arranged for curated tours on topics of their choice.

### TOUR TOPICS:

- *Seeing the Sacred in the Ordinary* at the PMA
- *Meditating Like a Monk: Prayerful Looking in the Cloister* at the PMA
- *Art and Spirit in Your Life* on Zoom
- *The Christmas Story in Art* at the PMA
- *Prophets of Hope* at the PMA
- *Prayerful Looking* at the PMA
- *Contemplative Looking* at the InLiquid Art and Design Gallery
- *God's Word in Art and Text* at the Church of the Redeemer, Bryn Mawr
- *Judaism and Art* at the PMA
- *The Bible in Art* at the PMA for St. John's Lutheran Church, Mayfair



## Foundations of Interfaith Leadership LIVE

Offered in collaboration with Interfaith America, Foundations of Interfaith Leadership LIVE was held twice this year. This online learning opportunity pairs facilitated skill-building sessions with asynchronous learning. Participants joined the program from across the country and from many disciplines, and received a certificate and LinkedIn badge upon completion.

1,200+  
PARTICIPANTS IN  
LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE  
PROGRAMS

# YOUTH INITIATIVES

Youth Initiatives foster understanding, respect, and collaboration among young people from diverse religious backgrounds. Students explore faith traditions and cultures that make up our region, while gaining skills to engage across difference.



## Interfaith Encounters Alternative Break

This year, students from four universities – Bryn Mawr College, LaSalle University, Messiah University, and Rosemont College – joined us for *Alternative Break* trips. They visited ten area faith communities and engaged in service projects related to housing and food insecurity.

2,347 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, MIDDLE SCHOOL, HIGH SCHOOL, AND COLLEGE STUDENTS REACHED

## Interfaith Book Trail

Now in its second year, the Interfaith Book Trail offered elementary school students and their families in Southern Delaware County a unique opportunity to explore diverse faiths through books, art, and reflection on key aspects of their identities.



# School Partnerships

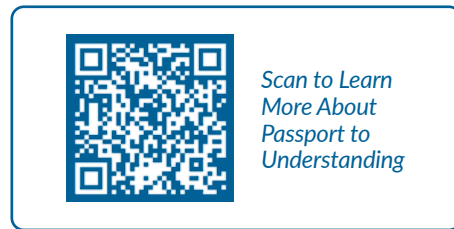
Educational institutions turned to us to help their students, teachers, and parents foster interfaith understanding, dialogue, and cooperation. School partnerships focus on promoting empathy, cultural competence, and interfaith literacy. Examples of offerings this year included:

- Middle schoolers at Gesu School participated in a 5-week *Passport to Understanding* workshop that integrated into their existing curriculum.
- Sixth graders at C.C.A. Baldi Middle School, after studying Christianity, Islam, and Judaism, learned from panelists about prayer in their respective faith and spiritual traditions.
- Student athletes and leaders at North Penn High School learned skills for *Navigating Difficult Conversations*.
- Following the onset of the crisis in the Middle East, local schools called on us to provide professional development and student programming to help them navigate challenges in their communities and in the classroom. We offered *Navigating Difficult Conversations* and *Passport to Understanding* workshops, hosted panel discussions, and conducted customized consultations.



# Youth Neighborhood Summer Mosaic

This summer, 6th-8th grade students from across the city, representing at least six faith traditions and worldviews, participated in our free, week-long *Mosaic* program. Utilizing our *Passport to Understanding* curriculum, they strengthened their identities while building connections with their peers. Students shared sacred objects, engaged with Interfaith staff and interns, and explored Christian, Muslim, and Jewish traditions. This year's *Mosaic* programs were hosted in partnership with the St. Thomas Aquinas Center and Praise Center (South Philadelphia), Gesu School (North Philadelphia), and Vision Academy Charter School (Lansdowne).



# 22

CUSTOMIZED  
YOUTH  
PROGRAMS



“As part of my internship with Rosemont College’s campus ministry, I participated in Interfaith Philadelphia’s Alternative Break retreat. It was one of the most amazing experiences I’ve ever had. I moved outside of my comfort zone, discovered a wealth of new information about many cultures, and made connections with people I would never have imagined possible.”

*Mariam Butt, Student*



# 20 YEARS OF IMPACT

We are proud of our two-decade history of making a difference in the Philadelphia region.

Scan to Watch Our 20 Questions Video Series



## INTERFAITH CENTER OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA™

### 2004 Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia is Founded

in the wake of 9/11 to build trust and understanding among faith communities and work for the common good. Our offices opened in Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral in West Philadelphia.



### 2010 Zones of Peace is Launched

by the Religious Leaders Council to address the root causes of gun violence in the region.



Scan to View Timeline and Add Your Own Memories

### 2006 Religious Leaders Council of Greater Philadelphia is Established

by denominational heads of over 20 Christian, Muslim, and Jewish bodies to offer mutual support and take action on interfaith concerns in the region. Today, the Council represents 36 diverse faith communities.

### 2012 Dare to Understand Award Ceremony is Inaugurated

to honor individuals, communities, and businesses championing interfaith engagement.



### 2005 Walking the Walk® Youth Initiative Launches Pilot Year

as an interfaith service learning program for high school students. It grew into a nationally recognized initiative reaching over 1,000 youth.





*We Invited Our Friends to Celebrate Our Journey Through Various Initiatives and Programs:*

- **INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE**  
The *Interfaith Philadelphia Innovation Fund* was established to provide unrestricted funds to support the development of innovative, dynamic approaches to engage leaders across sectors, pivot to offer responsive programming in moments of crisis, and grow our team to carry this work into the future.
- **20 QUESTIONS VIDEO SERIES**  
Leaders from our community answered curious and fun questions while guiding us through their unique settings.
- **WALKING THE WALK® ALUMNI STORIES**  
Graduates of our *Walking the Walk®* Youth Initiative shared stories about its impact on their lives and careers, and on the importance of interfaith work.



**2016**  
**Visionary Women is Established**  
to unite women of different religious, ethnic, and racial backgrounds to explore the intersection of faith, gender, and social justice.

**2022**  
**Leadership Institute of Greater Philadelphia Launches**

to build skills, relationships, experiences, and knowledge for interfaith engagement across sectors.

**2019**  
**Year of Civil Conversations**  
trains 1,000+ people in *Facilitating Civil Conversations* in partnership with a team at *On Being*, and reaches thousands more through community dialogues.

**2024**  
**Interfaith Philadelphia Celebrates its 20th Year**  
with a range of initiatives and programs, and a culminating *Dare to Understand* awards. Mayor Parker proclaims June 6, 2024 *Interfaith Philadelphia Day* and our 20th Anniversary logo appears on the PECO building crown lights!

“Interfaith Philadelphia was needed at its founding in the aftermath of 9/11, and it is just as imperative that it exists today. Conflicts that involve religious traditions will always be a reality. It is essential that there be space to come together to strengthen relationships and discuss issues rather than resort to suspicion and violence that all too often is the immediate response when people or communities feel threatened.”

*The Reverend Jesse B. Garner,  
Former Board Chair, Retired Pastor of  
First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia,  
2024 Dare to Understand Award Recipient*



# Inter-Seminary Initiative

The Inter-Seminary Initiative offers resources for on-going learning and skill-building so that participating institutions become places of welcome and dialogue. This year, the Inter-Seminary Initiative hosted a retreat for faculty members to foster deeper engagement and collaboration.

## PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS:

- ST. CHARLES BORROMEIO SEMINARY
- WON INSTITUTE FOR GRADUATE STUDIES
- RECONSTRUCTIONIST RABBINICAL COLLEGE
- RESPECT GRADUATE SCHOOL
- PALMER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
- LANCASTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
- UNITED LUTHERAN SEMINARY

# Zones of Peace

An initiative of the Religious Leaders Council, Zones of Peace celebrates organizations that lead the way with innovative approaches to reducing violence and strengthening community safety. Zones of Peace highlights houses of worship, schools, and community-based organizations dedicated to addressing the root causes of violence. This year, it recognized HIAS Pennsylvania and Souls Shot Portrait Project, bringing the total to 97 organizations committed to fostering safer and more resilient communities.

In response to the crisis in the Middle East, a collaborative team including the Mayor's Office of Public Engagement, the Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services, Interfaith Philadelphia, NAMI Philadelphia, and the Mayor's Commission on Faith-Based and Interfaith Affairs came together to offer Healing Circles and a NAMI Warmline for City residents.

# RELIGIOUS NETWORKS

*Houses of worship, congregations, religious organizations, and seminaries serve as vital communities for our region's residents. Our Religious Networks convene these institutions for collaboration and broad impact.*



# Religious Leaders Council of Greater Philadelphia

The Religious Leaders Council of Greater Philadelphia was founded in 2006 to build relationships of mutual support, offer a moral and spiritual voice in the region, and identify issues of local concern for dialogue and action. Senior leaders from thirty-six diverse religious communities make up the Council, representing more than two million people across the region.

- On February 20, 2024, the Council held an interfaith inaugural prayer service for newly elected Mayor Cherelle L. Parker and members of Philadelphia City Council at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul.
- The co-conveners of the Religious Leaders Council, in tandem with Interfaith Philadelphia, stood in solidarity with communities experiencing anti-Muslim and anti-Jewish vandalism.
- On National Gun Violence Awareness Day (June 7, 2024), the Council partnered with Penn Arts Live and over 50 other organizations to host *Toll the Bell*, a powerful city-wide sound installation. This event featured a vigil and the simultaneous ringing of bells across Philadelphia to recognize those lost to gun violence.



## RELIGIOUS LEADERS COUNCIL CO-CONVENERS 2023-2024

**Archbishop Nelsen J. 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*

## RELIGIOUS LEADERS COUNCIL MEMBERS 2023-2024

**Bishop Julius McAllister**  
*African Methodist Episcopal Church*

**Imam Mohamed Shehata**  
*Al-Aqsa Islamic Society*

**Kavneet Singh Pannu**  
*American Sikh Council*

**Rev. J. Louis Felton**  
*Black Clergy of Philadelphia and Vicinity*

**Rabbi Beth Janus**  
*Board of Rabbis of Greater Philadelphia*

**Bishop Guy Glimp**  
*Church of God in Christ*

**Rabbi Yosef Zarnighian**  
*Congregation Mikveh Israel*

**Bishop Peter Hwang**  
*Council of Korean Churches of Greater Philadelphia*

**Rabbi Eli Freedman**  
*Delaware Valley Association of Reform Rabbis*

**Bishop John Schol**  
*Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, The United Methodist Church*

**Very Reverend Archimandrite Avgoustinos Psomas**  
*Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America*

**Rev. Louis Cortes**  
*Hispanic Clergy of Philadelphia & Vicinity*

**Dr. Tahir Wyatt**  
*Majlis Ash-Shura of Philadelphia and the Delaware Valley*

**Rev. Dr. 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*

**Archbishop Mary Floyd Palmer**  
*Philadelphia Council of Clergy*

**Rev. Terry Davis**  
*Philadelphia Gospel Movement*

**Dr. Wilson Goode**  
*Philadelphia Leadership Foundation*

**Rev. Charles Shin**  
*Philadelphia Presbytery (PCA)*

**Christie Duncan-Tessmer**  
*Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends*

**Rev. Ruth Faith Santana-Grace**  
*Presbytery of Philadelphia, Presbyterian Church USA*

**Rabbi Abe Friedman**  
*Rabbinical Assembly, Philadelphia Region*

**Rabbi Shawn Zevit**  
*Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association*

**Fr. Mina Mina**  
*Saint Mary Coptic Orthodox Church in Delaware*

**Lt. Colonel Larry Ashcraft**  
*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*

**President Kim McNaughton**  
*The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*

**Archbishop Borys Gudziak**  
*Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia*

**Rev. Kevin Jagoe**  
*Unitarian Universalist Association, Central Eastern Region*

**Rev. Dr. Hojin Park**  
*Won Institute of Graduate Studies*



Scan to Watch the Interfaith Inaugural Prayer Gathering for Mayor Cherelle Parker

# INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT



## Dare to Understand Awards

The annual *Dare to Understand Awards* honor individuals, communities, and businesses of distinction that have championed interfaith engagement and understanding across lines of difference. On June 6, 2024, nearly 300 people gathered at the Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral to celebrate Interfaith Philadelphia's 20 years. In recognition of our anniversary, the City of Philadelphia proclaimed it "Interfaith Philadelphia Day."

### 2024 DARE TO UNDERSTAND AWARDS WERE PRESENTED TO:

- **IMAM DR. QUAISER D. ABDULLAH**  
Assistant Professor at Temple University Klein College of Media and Communication, and Director of Muslim Engagement for the City of Philadelphia
- **THE REVEREND JESSE B. GARNER**  
Retired Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia
- **MARJORIE N. SCHARF**  
Founder of Interfaith Philadelphia's *Walking the Walk*® Youth Initiative
- **THE VERY REV. JUDITH A. SULLIVAN**  
Retired Dean of the Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral

Also recognized were the nearly 1000 alumni of our *Walking the Walk*® Youth Initiative, along with the group leaders, parents, mentors, congregations, and service partners who were central to the success of the program.

The event raised over \$90,000 for the future of interfaith work in our region, and \$178,000 for the Interfaith Philadelphia Innovation Fund.

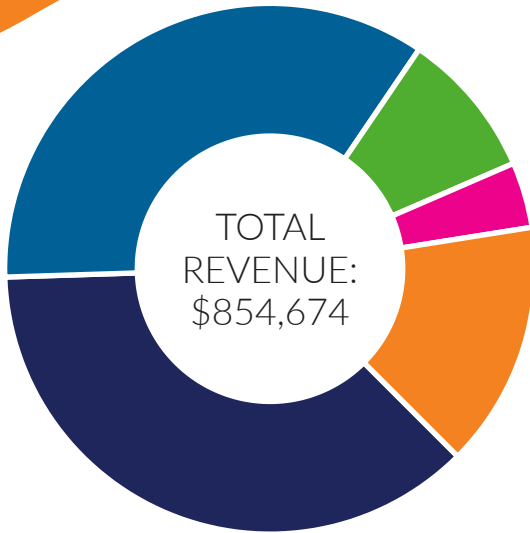


"I would not have the worldview nor the self confidence I have today if it weren't for the strong sense of identity that *Walking the Walk*® gave me. Through service, dialogue and dynamic learning opportunities, the stories told this evening are witness to *Walking the Walk*'s enduring impact."

Arisha Syed, *Walking the Walk*® Alumna at the *Dare to Understand Ceremony*



# FINANCIAL REPORT

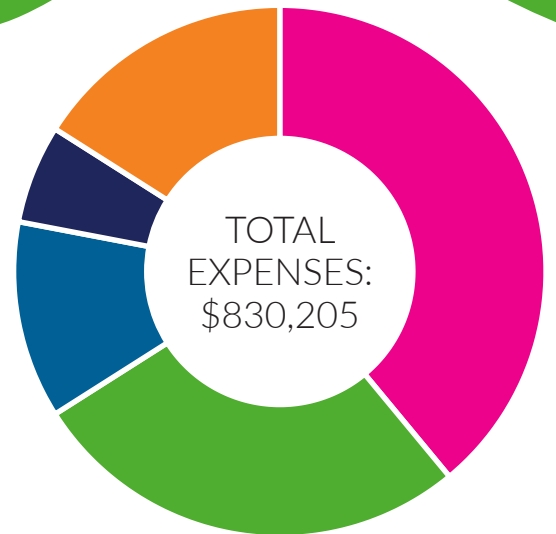


## Revenue

- INDIVIDUALS: 37%
- FOUNDATIONS: 35%
- RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES: 9%
- CORPORATIONS: 4%
- PROGRAM REVENUE: 15%

**\$178,000**

RAISED FOR OUR INNOVATION FUND IN HONOR OF INTERFAITH PHILADELPHIA'S 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



## Expenses

- LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE OF INTERFAITH PHILADELPHIA: 39%
- RELIGIOUS LEADERS COUNCIL: 12%
- YOUTH INITIATIVES: 27%
- INTER-SEMINARY INITIATIVE: 6%
- OTHER: 16%

# FUNDER & DONOR REPORT

2023-2024

Thank you! With gratitude to our many generous supporters.

## Trailblazer

\$25,000+



Anonymous

Debbie and William Becker\*

E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation

The Gallagher Family\*

The Michael and Alice Kuhn Foundation

Pincus Family Foundation

Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod ELCA

The John Templeton Foundation

Bruce and Nancy Winn\*

## Change-Maker

\$15,000-\$24,999

Stanley Barg\*

Philadelphia Foundation:  
Fund for Children

John Chou and Teresa Wallace\*

## Innovator

\$10,000-\$14,999

Anonymous

Margaret Barry and Jeffrey Abrams\*

Anne M. & Philip H. Glatfelter, III  
Family Foundation

Cynthia Stewart\*

## Bridge-Builder

\$5,000-\$9,999



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The Church of Jesus Christ  
of Latter-day Saints

Eastern Pennsylvania Conference,  
The United Methodist Church

Charles Goochee\*

Jon and Rabbi Carol Harris-Shapiro\*

Abby Stamelman Hocky  
and Eric Hocky

Metropolitan Christian Council  
of Philadelphia

Sharon Parker

Al Garner and Annie Paulsen\*

Carrie Gish and Marc Rockford\*

Steven and Tamra Zebovitz\*

## Friend

\$2,500-\$4,999



ALIGNMENT  
INTERFAITH CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICES

Independence 



Archdiocese of Philadelphia

ARTolerance

Len and Ellan Bernstein

Jewish Community Relations  
Council of the Jewish Federation  
of Greater Philadelphia

Carol Avins and Rayman Solomon

The Presbytery of Philadelphia

KC and Jeff Warren

Julie Dill Williams



\* Special Gratitude to Our Inaugural  
Innovation Fund Contributors



# Sustainer

\$1,000-\$2,499



Anonymous

Arch Street Presbyterian Church

Dr. Tiffenia Archie

Richard and Eileen Bazelon

Ed Beckett

Rabbi David Straus and Lynne Breslau

Rev. Carolyn Cavaness

Church of God in Christ

David Cohen

Rev. Dr. Joyce Shin  
and Dr. Michael David

Jason and Angela Duckworth

Beth and John Dugan

Drs. Gity and Bijan Etemad

Vance and John Fernandez

First Presbyterian Church  
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Barbra Berley-Mellits and Bart Mellits

Colleen Guiney Murray  
and Gerard Murray

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and Jeffrey Pasek

Pennsylvania Southeast  
Conference, United Church of Christ

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting,  
Religious Society of Friends

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Dr. Christina Clay  
and Thomas Ramsey

Ashley Rivera

Dr. Moji Saberlin

Ejaz Sabir

Jonathan Shahar

Elizabeth Weiler and James Shanahan

Sally and Lawrence Silverman

Amanda and Richard Smoot

The Very Reverend Judith A. Sullivan

Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy  
of Philadelphia

Rev. Betty White

David and Betsy Wice

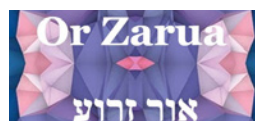
Dr. Tom and Rev. Courtenay Willcox

“Interfaith Philadelphia has always stood as a guiding voice in the realm of multi-faith relations. We are the trusted organization for those seeking to engage in meaningful and challenging conversations about faith, identity, and how these intersect with every aspect of life. We exist at the crossroads of faith, spirituality, and human connection, providing support, insight, and innovative ideas for those navigating these profound and vital discussions.”

Imam Dr. Quaiser D. Abdullah,  
Former Board Chair, Temple  
University Professor, Director  
of Muslim Engagement for the  
City of Philadelphia, 2024 Dare  
to Understand Award Recipient

## Small Business Sponsorships

VENTURE OUT



WELCOME IN



BE CURIOUS



● Orange Indicates Interfaith Philadelphia  
2023-2024 Board Member

# STAFF & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## 2024-2025

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