



Vermont Interfaith Action

Transforming People and Communities

2019

Issue	Groups in Organizing Committee	Accomplishments
Moral Economy	Clergy & Elders Caucus	Raised minimum wage to \$12.50 by 2022
		1 vote short of overriding veto of Paid Family Leave
Affordable Housing, Burlington	CCP, College St Congo, St. Paul's Burl	Pressed UVM to build more on-campus student housing
		Actively weighed in on housing incentives as invited member of Mayor's advisory group
Homelessness, Central VT	Christ Church Montpelier, Good Shepherd Barre, OMH, St. Augustine's, UCM, First Presbyterian Barre	Worked with allies to increase funding and support to move homeless individuals and families into permanent housing
Corrections Reform	CCP, St. Paul's Burl	2 forums with VT Businesses for Social Responsibility on jobs after incarceration
		pressed Dept of Corrections to improve pre-release preparation
Food Security	CCP, OZ	Designed a "Restaurant Roundup" program for Burl restaurants to collect money from patrons to donate to food security orgs – COVID ended this
Parents and Youth for Change	Former refugee families & youth in Burl and	Pressed for fair, equitable, and restorative disciplinary methods in high schools

	Winooski	Organized a student-run group of youth of color
Immigration	First Pres Barre, Good Shepherd Barre, UCM, OMH, First Congo Burl, OZ	National campaign to end child separation and inhumane deportations at border
		Solidarity Bike Ride to Deportation Center in NH

10 weeks into 2020, the pandemic struck. VT went into lockdown, and organizations pivoted.

2020-21

Issue	Groups in Organizing Committee	Accomplishments
Affordable Housing & Homelessness	Previously involved Central VT & Burlington congregations, plus Brattleboro area congregations	Won an additional \$134 million in state budget to build housing units and transition folks out of homelessness
		Currently pressing for more humane treatment of those coming out of motels
Corrections Reform	CCP, St. Paul's Burl, First Congo Thetford, Mercy Associates, FUUSB	Turned focus to conditions in women's facility, incl. sexual abuse by corrections officers (COs)
		At an Action in June, won additional staff for women's programming, more therapeutic & educational offerings, improved training & accountability for COs, more restorative culture
Immigration	Burlington Friends, Good Shepherd Barre, First Presbyterian Barre, OMH, First Congo Burl	National campaign, LA RED – pressing for a pathway to citizenship for 11 million persons
		Conducted a “mobile Action” around downtown Burlington to reach Congressional delegation & deliver signed clergy letter
		Joined in Fast for Freedom in Washington, DC & repeatedly pressed for leadership of VT Congressional delegation to champion a pathway to citizenship

Racial Justice: Economic Opportunities in Business	CCP, College St Congo, First Congo Burl, ASIG, FUUSB	Won passage of legislative charge to Secretary of State to expand business database to identify POC owned businesses
		Won passage of bill to charge Commerce Agency and Racial Equity Director to develop better outreach and support to POC-owned businesses
Racial Justice: Economic Opportunities in Land & Housing Ownership	CCP, College St Congo, First Congo Burl, ASIG, FUUSB	Raised legislative awareness of proposed bills to expand housing board membership and to authorize homeownership grants to POC; pressing for these to be taken up in January
		Conducting adult ed classes in congregations on the impact on generational wealth of lack of home & land ownership to lay foundation for organizing work in January
Racial Justice: Public Safety	CCP, College St Congo, First Congo Burl, ASIG, FUUSB	Preparing a guide for community groups across the state to evaluate and engage local police forces regarding equity
		Researching improvement of application process to recruit and hire POC as police officers

Acronyms explained:

CCP = Christ Church, Presbyterian in Burlington

UCM = Unitarian Church of Montpelier

OMH = Old Meeting House, East Montpelier

FUUSB = First Unitarian Universalist Society, Burlington

ASIG = All Souls Interfaith Gathering in Shelburne

Congo = Congregational (United Church of Christ)