

Racine Interfaith Coalition

Annual Report to the
Community
2020-2021



Strength through Faith,
Power through
Community





Come:

**Connect – Grow – Serve – Go
with Us!**

Pastor: Rev. George J. Kafer

Sunday worship: 10:00 AM

Sunday school: 10:00 AM

Kid's club and youth group: Wednesday, 6:00 to 7:00 PM

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Racine County Executive

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Morning Worship 7:45 A.M. & 10:45 A.M.

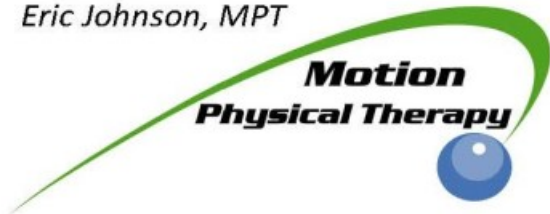
***Sunday School 9:30 A.M.**

Mid-Week Service 11:00 A.M. & 6:00 P.M.

Church Office Hours: Tues.-Fri. 10:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.

Bishop Lawrence L. Kirby, Pastor
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Eric Johnson, MPT



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To worship online see **HOW DO I JOIN THE ONLINE SERVICE** tab on our website unitedlutheran.co.
To join Sunday worship on **FACEBOOK LIVE**, send a friend request to Pastor John. www.facebook.com/john.bischoff.524



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We salute the Racine
Interfaith Coalition's work
for peace and justice in
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Democratic Party of
Racine County



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Thank you to the members of the
Racine Interfaith Coalition for always
fighting the good fight, running the
race, and keeping the faith.

Fr. Yeprem Kelegian



Best Wishes !

Your friends,
The Meredith's

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NAVIGATOR RACINE

Elizabeth A. Erven

Educational Consultant

Cell: (262) 417-4830

Home: (262) 633-6592

gnome201@yahoo.com

*Social and educational advocacy for
homeless children and youth*



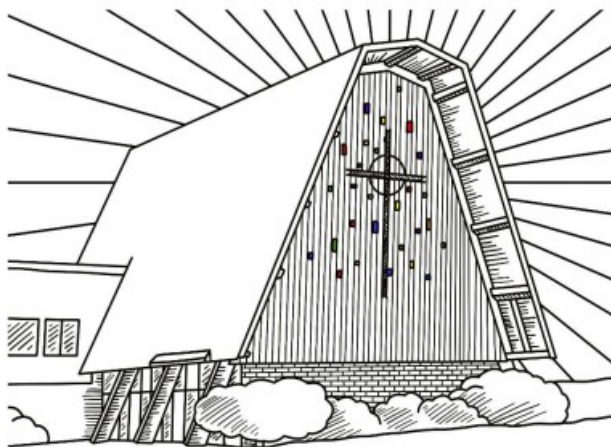
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(262) 634-5515

EmausELCA@gmail.com

EmausELCA.org

FB: Emaus ELCA (English)

FB: Parroquia Emaus (elca) Racine (español)

Worship with us/ Adorar con nosotros

Saturday at 4:30 pm (English)

Sunday at 9:00 am (English)

Domingo 11:00 am (español)



North Pointe United Methodist Church

3825 Erie Street, Racine, WI 53402

(262) 639-2441

office@northpointeracine.org

www.northpointeracine.org

Pastor: Rev. Susan Barham



Sunday services: 9:15 AM

Videos of all services are available on our Facebook page

Outreach Ministries



Northside Food Pantry

Tuesday and Thursday

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Diaper Ministry

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Saturday Afternoon - 4:30 p.m.

Sunday Morning - 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

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Changing Lives

Contemporary Worship 10 am

Reaching out to Serve

Education Hour 9 am

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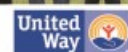
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Together, we helped over 33,000 people last year. We've done great things together, but the need now is stronger than ever. Will you donate to support our community?

UnitedWayRacine.org/give.



United Way
of Racine County





Racine Interfaith Coalition

Strength through Faith, Power through Community

The Racine Interfaith Coalition (RIC) is a non-profit organization made up of 28 congregations or affiliates who are united in our belief in the inherent value of every individual and our shared obligation to create a fairer, more equitable and more just community.

The issues we tackle, and the projects we undertake, are driven by our vision and mission, our faith traditions, the commitment of our volunteers, and the statewide programs of the faith-based organization with which we are affiliated (WISDOM).

We advocate for changes in local and state laws and ordinances when we believe it is necessary to achieve our vision and mission, but our objectives are always humanitarian, never partisan. We believe power comes from collective action and we welcome to the work all faith communities as well as individuals who share our vision, mission and values.

Our Vision

A Beloved Community where every member contributes to the health and well-being of all and inclusion, justice, equity and compassion prevail.

Our Mission

To inspire and mobilize faith-based congregations to address issues of economic and social injustice through education, advocacy and community organizing.

Our Values

Faith in the inherent goodness of every human being and the power of prayer and belief.

Compassion that includes not only a deep sympathy for the suffering of others but also a strong desire to act to relieve that suffering.

Inclusion because we believe that every person – no exceptions – should be welcome as a member of the Beloved Community, especially those who have suffered from injustice and exclusion.

Commitment because it is not enough to just pray or talk about our beliefs, we must also act on them.

Cooperation because we believe that collaboration with other individuals, teams and organizations will produce better outcomes for those we serve.

Respect for the cultures and beliefs of others because we are all equal in our ability to conceive solutions that will help create the Beloved Community.

Racine Interfaith Coalition
2302A DeKoven Avenue, Racine, WI 53403
(262) 635-9532 ricracine1993@gmail.com www.ricracine.org



David Liners
Executive Director



This has been a busy but unusual year for WISDOM. Since we were not able to meet in person, WISDOM provided leadership training via Zoom. We offered a five-week “Basics of Community Organizing” series that was so popular it was repeated five times with more than 200 participants. WISDOM also hosted the “Summer of Solidarity” and the “Autumn of Action” on Saturday mornings. Between 40-100 people logged on to 16 three-hour sessions covering issues ranging from Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women to Mass Transit and Racial Issues in the Suburbs.

Throughout 2020, WISDOM also doggedly advocated for people in prison. Through actions, call-in days, and even a 40-day sit-in, WISDOM leaders called attention to the unique dangers of COVID-19 for incarcerated people and urged Governor Evers to grant clemency to older prisoners, those with serious health conditions, and those who posed a very low risk to public safety. In the end, the state did reduce the prison population by about 2,500, but not nearly enough to avoid having more than half of prison inmates test positive and dozens of avoidable deaths.

WISDOM affiliates were also actively involved in non-partisan efforts to encourage voting, especially in populations with historically low voter turnout. Though we could not visit people door-to-door, we dropped literature on doorsteps and made thousands of phone calls. WISDOM affiliates deserve significant credit for helping to boost voter turnout in the 2020 elections.

2021 will be dominated by the creation of a Wisconsin state budget that will be in effect until June 2023. WISDOM has a long list of items for which it will advocate including making a sustained commitment to reduce the prison population so a major prison can be closed in 2021 and the savings reinvested in programs such as transitional jobs and treatment alternatives and diversions. WISDOM will also push for adequate funding for transit and education as well as increased environmental protections and for drive-only cards for undocumented workers.

RIC continues to provide tremendous leadership to the WISDOM network. For example, in 2020, RIC developed an immigrant support initiative to help those who do not receive government stimulus money that became a model for three other local WISDOM affiliates. WISDOM is grateful for the faithful perseverance of so many justice-seeking people in 2020 and we look forward to a better 2021.

Wisdom Prophetic Declaration

Where there is division, we declare unity.

Where there is hatred, we declare love.

Where there is lack, we declare abundance.

Where there is desolation, we declare renewal.

Where there is discouragement, we declare hope.

Where there is lack of strength, we declare power.

RIC Congregations/Organizations

Congregation/Organization	Congregation Leader	Board Representative
All Nation Pentecostal Prayer House	Rev. Roger Carson	Rev. Roger Carson
Beth Israel Sinai Congregation	Rabbi Martyn Adelberg	Joyce Plazrowski
Burlington Coalition for Dismantling Racism	Darnisha Garbade	Darnisha Garbade
Christ Church United Methodist	Rev. George Kafer	Tamerin Hayward & Nancy Holmlund
Emaus ELCA Lutheran Church	Marcy Wieties	Mary Janz
Greater Mt. Eagle Baptist Church	Pr. Keith Evans	Pr. Keith Evans
Higher Ground	Pr. Malone	S.N. Frazier
Holy Communion Lutheran Church	Rev. Mark Doidge	Joannie Williams & Susan Barbee
Kenosha Racine Quaker Worship Group	Quaker Worship Group	Belinda Thielen & Worship Group Members
Living Faith Lutheran Church	Rev. Bill Mains	Ron Thomas
Lutheran Church of the Resurrection	Pr. Karen Pahl	Colin McKenna
New Beginnings of Faith	Pr. Prentiss Robbins	Pr. Prentiss Robbins
North Pointe United Methodist Church	Rev. Susan Barham	Betty Brenneman
Olympia Brown Unitarian Universalist Church	Pr. Eric Meter	Joe Cushing & Marybeth Zuhlke
Racine Islamic Center	Imam Wali Shakoora-Luqman	Nabeeh El Amin
Sacred Heart Catholic Church	Rev. Ricardo Martín	David Kleba
Siena Center	S. Karen Vollmer	S. Jean Verber
St. Luke's Episcopal Church	Fr. Seth Raymond	Wally Herman
St. Mesrob Apostolic Armenian Church	Fr. Avedis Kalayjian	Fr. Yeprem Kelegian
St. Patrick Catholic Church	Rev. Antony Thomas	Jessica Diaz
St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church	Bishop Lawrence Kirby	Tammi McCright
St. Richard of Chichester Catholic Church	Fr. Antony Thomas	Fr. Antony Thomas
St. Rita Parish	Fr. Michael Petersen	Deacon Greg Petro, Sue Willing, Blanche Jastrow & Deb Wollert
The Hospitality Center	Fr. Seth Raymond	Fr. Seth Raymond
United Church of God in Christ	Pr. Curtis Doss	Pr. Curtis Doss
United Lutheran Church	Pr. John Bischoff	Kenda Dues
Wayman A. M. E. Church	Rev. Ernest Ni'A	Al Johnson

EXECUTIVE BOARD & STAFF

Co-Presidents: Linda Boyle/Tammy Hayward

Co-Vice Presidents: Nikki Fisher/Jessica Diaz

Treasurer: David Kleba

Members at Large: Wally Herman, Al Johnson, Connie Cobb Madsen

Past President: Greg Petro

Staff

Organizer: Pr. Prentiss Robbins, Jr.

Office Manager: Virginia Aranda

COMMITTEES

Ministry Leaders Caucus

Pr. Prentiss Robbins, Jr., Chair
Ministry Leaders from RIC congregations/organizations

Fund Development

Linda Boyle, Tammy Hayward, Wally Herman, Colin McKenna

Communications/Marketing

Nikki Fisher, Chair
Wally Herman, Al Johnson



Linda Boyle



Tammy Hayward

Racine Interfaith Coalition

Linda Boyle and Tammy Hayward

Co-Presidents

Along with so many others in our country, we were heartbroken to see the extent to which 2020 brought crisis and hardship to so many people. But we experienced some powerful moments as well, most of them due to the creativity and faithful work of our task force leaders and members, the untiring efforts of our staff, Pastor Prentiss Robbins and Virginia Aranda, and the generosity of the Racine community. For all of these we are deeply grateful!

We began the year with the largest-ever attendance at our “Love and Justice Breakfast” and a record number of cakes to auction. In partnership with the Dominican Center for Justice Resources, we sponsored a year-long set of programs related to racial justice, starting with a presentation in January by Dr. Milton Dockery, followed in early March by a film and performance about the first black priest, **Tolton**. Due to COVID-19, we were not able to hold another program until September when we presented Implicit Bias training via Zoom.

Other RIC events had to be curtailed as well. Our Sustaining Member Luncheon became virtual with music and prayer and, in place of our annual banquet, we held a “Food Truck Banquet” with speakers Scott Terry and Jessica Diaz talking about working for racial justice.

Through this tumultuous summer, we participated in many efforts related to racial justice including supporting Scott Terry’s “Black Humanity Now” street mural and participating in peaceful marches in Racine and Kenosha following the death of George Floyd and the shooting of Jacob Blake. We continue to work with our state organization, WISDOM, and our national organization, Gamaliel, on issues related to transformational justice and releasing individuals from prison in light of the threat of COVID-19.

In August, we brought together 23 different local organizations to work on the issue of systemic racism and are now jointly working with them on efforts to eliminate suspensions and expulsions in the public schools – something which disproportionately affects Black and brown students and often pushes them into the “school-to-prison pipeline.” We also welcomed a new affiliate, Burlington Coalition for Dismantling Racism, and participated with them in meaningful anti-racism actions.

Other projects this year included an Immigrant Support Initiative that helped over 100 immigrant families who are not eligible for government assistance with food, rent and utilities. This need and the effort is still ongoing as the pandemic continues to devastate our community. A joint effort by our Mental Health and Restoring our Communities task forces also helped recently released individuals deal with the pandemic. A non-partisan voter outreach effort that included dropping literature on 9000 doorsteps and sending over 10,000 post cards resulted in turnout of more than 80% in the neighborhoods on which we focused.

As Co-Presidents we thank our members, volunteers, and the community for supporting RIC’s efforts to bring equity, compassion, inclusion, and justice to our Beloved Community and look forward to working together in 2021 to continue to support these goals.



RIC Organizer and Chair, Ministry Leaders Caucus

Pastor Prentiss Robbins, Jr.

Pastor Prentiss Robbins, Jr., is the Racine Interfaith Coalition's Organizer as well as the Chair of the Ministry Leaders Caucus. He is the Senior Pastor of New Beginnings of Faith Church of God in Christ in Racine where he has served since 2009. For the past nine years, he has been a preacher, teacher, and civic leader in the community. Pastor Robbins' focus has been on family and he specializes in meeting the needs of the homeless and those recently released from prison in the areas of spiritual, personal, and transformational growth as well as job training and development.

To address social injustice, Pastor Robbins has worked in 2020 to:

- *add volunteers and new members to RIC's task forces,*
- *support our new affiliate, Burlington Coalition for Dismantling Racism,*
- *strengthen the Restoring Our Communities (ROC) task force, and*
- *facilitate a community roundtable made up of 23 different organizations to tackle systemic racism.*

Pastor Robbins is also a member of the Organizers' table at our state affiliate, WISDOM.

My primary goal as an Organizer is to network and build relationships with churches, pastors, religious leaders, non-member congregations and community leaders. As Organizer, I pay special attention to RIC events and help determine what we need to do to make each event a success. One of our annual events is the "Love and Justice Breakfast" where clergy bake a special dessert that is raffled off. That was a great success this year but the remainder of our fundraisers and events for 2020 had to be curtailed or done differently because of the pandemic.

I believe that the RIC Ministry Leaders Caucus will continue to grow and become vibrant when we commit to our vision and share personally in the ministry. We need your help to continue advocating with policy makers, organizing the grassroots, finding ways to reduce poverty, and educating future leaders to live faithfully, seek justice, and pursue peace in the city and county of Racine.

We do best when we all come together, communicate effectively and are willing to work together. We may sometimes fall short of our goal, but we have done well considering the number of people and churches that are supporting the Racine Interfaith Coalition. It is my hope that 2021 will be a great year where we will meet our objectives both in our budget accountability and in our ministries.



Sue Spicer

Immigration Task Force

Sue Spicer and Linda Boyle

Co-Chairs



Linda Boyle

The RIC Immigration Task Force was very busy this year. In April, in response to the pandemic, we created a website and a process to help immigrants who were suffering disproportionately because they were not eligible to receive any government support, even though they were essential workers or are in industries that experienced major job losses during the economic shutdown.

In response to our outreach, the Racine community has been very generous. Over the last several months, the Racine Immigrant Support Initiative has raised more than \$30,000 that was used to help more than 130 families with rent, utilities, and groceries. We also provided information and referrals to other agencies where families can receive additional support. As the pandemic has continued, families are still at risk of losing their homes or going without food, so we will continue to raise funds for this important initiative. If you would like to help, you can donate online at www.racineimmigrantsupport.com or send a check to the RIC office with the words “immigrant support” in the memo line.

In 2020, the task force also created, with the help of a grant from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), a program to help people who are in immigrant detention centers. The Detained Migrant Project grew out of an informal effort by members of the task force to help immigrants in the Kenosha Detention Center obtain legal help, raise funds for bond, or find housing and work when released. Since immigrants are no longer held in the Kenosha Detention Center, we are now working with immigrants in the McHenry County and Kankakee Detention Centers in Illinois.

In addition to direct work with immigrants and their families, we continue to work to educate the community at large by giving our “Exploring Immigration” presentation. This presentation, which has now been given to dozens of churches and community groups such as AAUW and Rotary, presents facts about immigration and works to dispel many of the false myths about immigrants.

Through WISDOM, our statewide organization, we are working on a project dealing with domestic abuse. Domestic abuse among immigrants has increased during the pandemic and often goes unreported because of fear of deportation or other repercussions. The statewide task force is creating a brochure that lists community resources for women and children suffering abuse. The brochure will be distributed widely in Racine and Kenosha.

As Co-Chairs we would like to thank the dedicated and hardworking members of our Immigration Task Force. We continue to meet virtually at 6:00 PM on the second Tuesday of each month and welcome anyone who would like to join us. Many hands make the work lighter.



Turn Up the Vote Organizing Team

Linda Boyle
Joe Cushing
Rich Glasenapp
Tammy Hayward

Nikki Fisher
Nada Kutz
Kathy Laru
Sue Spicer

Racine Interfaith Coalition has been involved in non-partisan voter outreach through its Turn up the Vote (TUTV) program since 2011, but the effort went into high gear during 2020, even with the limitations brought on by the pandemic.

On July 4, RIC kicked off its TUTV effort with a press release and a 17-minute video posted on Facebook that gave detailed information about voter ID requirements, how to register to vote, how to request an absentee ballot, important dates and deadlines, and how to research issues and candidates. Over the next few months, “live” versions of the presentation were given via Zoom to a number of groups including classes and a community forum at Gateway Technical College.

After the July 4 kickoff, RIC began its outreach to specific wards in Racine and Mt. Pleasant that had traditionally had lower voter turnout. These are neighborhoods where RIC had been having periodic door-to-door conversations over the last few years to better understand the issues and concerns of residents and to urge them to get involved in civic activities.

Before the August 11 primary, RIC printed and distributed packages of literature to 3000 households in those neighborhoods. This literature, in English and Spanish, included both detailed voting information and information about constitutional rights and the Census. Stuffing and distributing the literature was a team effort. More than 20 volunteers spent 14 hours sorting and filling plastic bags with more than a dozen pieces of literature, and 15 people walked the neighborhoods, dropping a bag at each house.

In September, nearly 70 volunteers from RIC, AAUW and the Racine Dominicans labeled, stamped, and mailed 4600 post cards to eligible voters in the targeted wards. RIC also placed informational ads in multiple issues of the Racine Mirror and Hispanic Reflections, and in Wednesday and Sunday editions of the Racine Journal Times.

At the end of September, dozens of volunteers again sorted, bagged and delivered a new set of literature to 5000 households. The materials this time also included, for each ward, contact information for local officials, polling locations, and descriptions of the offices that were on the November ballot. All TUTV materials also included a voter hotline number to call to ask questions as well as obtain information about how RIC would provide rides to the polls or to the DMV to get an ID. Ultimately, RIC provided more than 20 rides and fielded more than 40 calls or texts to the hotline.

In mid-October, RIC sent a second set of postcards urging residents to use their “Superpower” by returning their absentee ballot, voting early, or making a plan to vote on November 3. The post cards listed all the early voting locations in Racine and their hours of operation. Again, more than 70 volunteers stepped up to label, stamp and mail the postcards. The outcome of all this activity was that the specific wards RIC touched had turnout rates on November 3 of more than 80% -- higher than the county, state, and nation.

Youth Task Force

Latoya Thurmond, Chair



The Racine Interfaith Coalition Youth Task is a group of individuals ages 12-21 from across Racine county who are focused on improving their local community by helping those in need.

The youth task force helps RIC effectively reach youth audiences and provides opportunities for young people to participate in activities, projects and events. In addition, the youth task force supports Racine Interfaith Coalition's other tasks forces and promotes youth engagement and youth-focused activities. While we were not able to meet in person for most of the year, the youth task force did create an Instagram page encouraging young voters to register and vote. In addition, they met with local officials about voter suppression and the importance of the youth vote.

Later in 2021, we hope to begin again to meet in person and work on issues and concerns of importance to youth. All young people are welcome!



Mental Health and Wellness Task Force

Preneice Love, Chair

The Racine Interfaith Coalition recognizes the undesirable impact that both issues with mental health and lack of wellness has had on the Racine community. So, RIC has created a Mental Health and Wellness Task Force to promote healthy behaviors.

The purpose of this task force is to bring awareness to the relationships between physical and mental health, poverty, and wellness. The Mental Health and Wellness Taskforce uses a multi-level approach to promote healthy behaviors by equipping individuals with the knowledge, skills and resources to support a healthy lifestyle.

Because of the pandemic, we were not able to hold our second annual Mental Health and Wellness Fair in 2020. The first one, held in October 2019, featured vendors, workshops and incentives for healthy living and was a great success. We hope to be able to hold this fair again in late 2021.

As an alternative, this year we plan to hold a series of bimonthly webinars for community members that focus on areas of particular concern including questions about the COVID-19 vaccinations and how to reduce stress related to issues of grief, isolation and economic insecurity. We will also continue to focus on maternal health including infant prematurity, infant mortality and prenatal and postnatal depression and the impact of these on mothers, fathers, family and the community as a whole.

If you are interested in joining this task force, please call the RIC office at (262) 635-9532,

Education Task Force

Nikki Fisher, Chair



The RIC Education Task Force had a busy year, despite the pandemic. We started the year by finishing a long-term project – a comprehensive website (www.racineschools.com) that lists key data, including student and staff demographics, contact information, the state report card, and other information about each of the 52 public and private schools in the Racine Unified School District (RUSD) area. The website was previewed at the RIC Love and Justice breakfast in February and went officially “live” in March 2020.

In March, we also held a forum at Gateway Technical College to help educate the community on the details of the RUSD funding referendum that was on the ballot on April 11. The referendum, which passed by the slimmest of margins (five votes after a recount), will allow RUSD to update its aging buildings and create a 21st century learning environment for every student.

After schools closed due to the pandemic, we made a quick pivot to try to figure out how we could support a community suddenly faced with a completely different mode of educating its children. We started by creating a Facebook group called “Raising Up Racine” to provide a central place where parents, teachers and students could find information about remote learning. The group now has over 200 members and information is being posted frequently about activities and services from RUSD as well as national and local resources for children, parents and teachers.

By June, it was clear that the abrupt shift to remote learning had had a profound impact on the emotional well-being of students and teachers. Our response was to reach out to teachers to let them know we understood what a challenge it was to change so abruptly to online teaching. Thanks to dozens of volunteers, including individuals not only from our task force but also from AAUW and the Siena Center, nearly 1000 teachers received hand-written thank you postcards.

2020 graduating seniors also experienced disruption and disappointment in what was definitely a non-traditional senior year, so we created large-format cards letting them know that their community appreciates and supports them. These cards were included in the packets given to each of the 3500 RUSD graduating seniors at their drive-by graduation.

Once it was clear that RUSD would stay with remote learning again in the fall, we began exploring the potential to create a Remote Learning Center where elementary students who might otherwise be unsupervised because their parents had to work, could come to a safe, socially-distanced location with reliable internet service during their school day. Detailed plans were created and one of RIC’s congregations stepped up to be the first church to participate, but the center has not opened yet due to uncertainty about whether or not RUSD will continue remote learning for the remainder of the school year.

The Education Task Force is also taking a leadership role in the community-wide effort to tackle systemic racism in Racine. In August, a group of community leaders agreed that systemic racism in education — and specifically the disproportionate level at which Black and brown students at RUSD are suspended and expelled, even in the early grades — would be the first area of focus. We are continuing to support that effort through research, leadership and advocacy. The ultimate goal is to eliminate all suspensions and expulsions at RUSD and replace them with alternative strategies that will support children of color rather than push them inexorably down the school-to-prison pipeline.



Ex-Incarcerated Persons Organizing (EXPO)

Carl Fields, Chair



My name is Carl Fields, and I am the Organizer for Ex-Incarcerated Persons Organizing (EXPO) in Racine and Kenosha. I write this just as I would speak to you if we were to meet face to face. I can tell you about the negative impact of school suspension and expulsions or how the drug war and the opioid crisis are addressed very differently depending on your skin color and where you live. But I'd rather shake your hand and hear your story -- and perhaps invite you to a meeting or two. That is where we get into how all these things are connected, and what we can do about it.

If you are interested in equitable justice and are yearning to be a part of a local solution, please join us. Call the RIC Office 262-635-9352 for more information.

Restoring Our Communities (ROC)

Prentiss Robbins, Jr., Chair



Pastor Prentiss Robbins has recently assumed responsibility for chairing the Restoring Our Communities (ROC) Task Force with Minister Isaac Garrot as co-chair of ROC-Men and Helena Robbins as co-chair of ROC-Woman. The issues they will be addressing in the immediate future will be helping woman recently released from prison to stay out of prison, and addressing issues related to visiting at the Racine County Jail. They will also continue to work with the Education Task Force on practical solutions for disrupting the school-to-prison pipeline in Racine.



Burlington Coalition for Dismantling Racism

Darnisha Garbade, Founder and Organizer

The Burlington Coalition for Dismantling Racism (BCDR) was founded in 2019 by Darnisha Garbade. After years of working tirelessly to push for change in the Burlington Area School District (BASD), she was joined by other parents, community leaders and Burlington residents in pursuing racial equity and justice.

2020 was a year of significant growth for the Coalition. In addition to adding 30 new members, we were able to fill key leadership roles within the organization. We also created dedicated committees to better support our work, including a Community Organizing committee, a Business and Branding committee, a Racial Harassment committee, and a Justice and Equity committee.

While this year was trying for all of us, the BCDR accomplished a lot. In the fall, we donated boxes of Crayola's "World of Colors" crayons as well as 5 books featuring characters of color for every 4K through 6 classroom in the BASD. We also brought a monthly program that donates books written by and about people of color called "Listening Library" to Burlington classrooms.

We formed a partnership with the BASD and the Equity Project to elevate the voices of people of color to advocate for antiracism policies and curriculum. After researching other school antiracism policies, we drafted and submitted a comprehensive antiracism policy to promote systemic change within the District.

We also fostered partnerships to bring programming and education to the broader Burlington community. We hosted a racially conscious outdoor movie series with local brewery and restaurant, Low Daily Brewery. We also worked with a local teacher and historian to facilitate a weekend of Historical Bike Tours to sites around town to teach about Burlington's abolitionist history.

In 2020, we also planned and held three events to bring the community together and call for racial justice, including Burlington's first annual Juneteenth event, which drew nearly 300 attendees. Our Juneteenth Rally featured food, entertainment, speakers, and activities to celebrate and spread awareness about this African American holiday.



Supporting RIC Financially

The Racine Interfaith Coalition is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization funded by fees from our member congregations, grants, fundraising events, advertising in our annual report, and the contributions of individual donors. Throughout the past 27 years, the generosity of our community has allowed us to be consistent in our efforts to create a Beloved Community where every member contributes to the health and well being of all and inclusion, justice, equity and compassion prevail.

We take our fiscal responsibilities very seriously and our only paid staff is an Organizer and a part-time office manager. All other tasks, including grant writing, event planning and task force leadership are carried out by unpaid volunteers. Our volunteer Board of Directors, made up of representatives of each of our member churches plus officers and executive committee members, are diligent in their monthly review of our budget and expenditures.

Sustaining Membership

Because grants can come and go and the success of fundraisers can vary, our most reliable source of income is from Sustaining Members who commit to supporting us annually, either through a once-a-year or monthly contribution.

Sustaining members will be particularly important as we continue to carry out our mission to inspire and mobilize faith-based congregations to address issues of economic and social injustice through education, advocacy and community organizing.

We invite you to become a Sustaining member by filling out the form on the next page or by contacting the RIC office at 262-635-9532 or emailing us at ricracine1993@gmail.com. One-time gifts are, of course, also welcome and very much appreciated.

Legacy and Inheritance Giving

We have recently joined with WISDOM to create an Endowment Fund that will support legacy giving. You can ensure that the good work of RIC continues for years to come by remembering us in your will. Your gift, large or small, will help guarantee that we can always have great community organizers, that all our leaders, no matter their economic circumstances, will be able to access world-class leadership training, and that our fight for justice never wanes.

If you are receiving an inheritance, you might also want to consider tithing – giving 10% of your inheritance back to the community. One result of generations of racial and social inequity is the great disparity in accumulated wealth. Donating a portion of your inheritance to justice organizations can be a way to repair that inequity.

For more information about legacy or inheritance giving, contact the RIC office.



RIC Sustaining Member Enrollment Form

Name(s): _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City/Zip: _____

E-Mail: _____ Congregation: _____

Monthly Giving

Yes! I would like to become a RIC Sustaining Member by enrolling in the monthly giving program.

Electronic Funds Transfer – Authorization Agreement for Direct Payments (ACH Debits)

I/we hereby authorize RIC to initiate debit entries to my (our) Checking Account or Savings Account for the amount listed below at the depository financial institution named below or on the enclosed voided check. I (we) acknowledge that the origination of ACH transactions to my (our) account must comply with the provisions of U.S. law.

Please debit \$ _____ from my account monthly. I would like to begin on the 15th of _____ (Month)

Underline which account you would like your automatic withdrawal taken from.

Checking Account: ATTACH A VOIDED CHECK (not a deposit slip)

Or

Savings Account: ATTACH A SAVINGS DEPOSIT SLIP or fill in the information below

Routing Number: _____ Account Number: _____

This authorization is to remain in full force and effect until RIC receives written notification from me (or either of us) of its termination in such time and in such manner as to afford RIC and the depository financial institution a reasonable opportunity to act on it.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

If joint

Second Signature: _____ Date: _____

Annual Gift

Yes! I am/want to be a Sustaining Member, but I prefer to make an Annual Donation (Renewable)

I have enclosed a check for: \$120 \$250 \$500 \$1000 Other

REMEMBER: RIC is 501(c) 3 - Tax Deductible charitable organization



Racine Interfaith Coalition's History Started 27 years ago



The Racine Interfaith Coalition was formed 27 years ago to enlist faith-based organizations in Racine to work for social justice, especially on behalf of those without wealth and power. According to Sister Jeanne Kimler, local lawyer Stephanie Lazzeroni saw the need for working with others in faith and talked to her pastor, Mark McDonough of Covenant Presbyterian Church. To learn more about organizing faith communities, the two of them attended a Milwaukee Inner City Congregations Allied for Hope (MICAH) meeting where they met MICAH's Lead Organizer, Ana Garcia-Ashley, who would later become an organizer for RIC.

Eventually, leaders from about twenty congregations assembled to consider how their churches could combat racism, poverty, violence and other problems confronting Racine. Late in 1994, Lazzeroni and McDonough also arranged a meeting at the Siena Center with the Gamaliel Foundation where they and others saw a presentation about organizing faith-based communities. After that meeting, RIC became affiliated with Gamaliel.

News of the fledgling body spread quickly throughout the community and the Racine Interfaith Coalition was born. From 1993 to 1995, RIC's main thrust was to enlist as many faith-based organizations as possible. Between 1994 and 1996, RIC grew from ten members to 15 and has grown since to include 28 faith communities. During this time of rapid growth, RIC was able to hire an organizer to help direct the activities and recruit new members. Today, RIC has six active task forces, staffed by dozens of volunteers from local congregations and the community, who are working every day to fulfill the organization's original mission.

In January of 2000, RIC came together with sister organizations in Milwaukee (MICAH) and Kenosha (CUSH) to form the WISDOM network. Since that time, WISDOM has expanded to Beloit/Janesville (JOB), the Fox Cities (ESTHER), Green Bay (JOSHUA), Manitowoc (RUTH), Waukesha County (SOPHIA), Eau Claire (JONAH), Wausau (NAOMI), Madison (MOSES), and the Menominee Reservation (Menikanaehkem). WISDOM also includes EXPO (EX-incarcerated People Organizing), which has chapters around the state.

RIC 2020 Sustaining Members/Special Donors

Because grants can come and go and the success of fundraisers can vary, our most reliable source of income is from Sustaining Members who commit to supporting us annually, either through a once-a-year or monthly contribution, and from other generous community members who make substantial gifts to the Racine Interfaith Coalition throughout the year. Below is a list of all those who were so generous in 2020. We wouldn't exist without them.

Amanda Boyle	Jean Verber	Nancy Egghert
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Janet Elizinga	Michael Mueller	Yeprem & Judy Kelegian
Jean Smith	Mike & Anne Frontier	

Racine Immigrant Support Initiative Donors

In the Spring of 2020, Racine Interfaith Coalition created a process, website and separate fund to support our immigrant brothers and sisters who are not eligible for federal and state benefits during the unprecedented public health, economic and humanitarian crisis caused by COVID-19. In answer to our call for donations, 90+ individuals and organizations have contributed to helping more than 100 families so far. Thank you to all the generous donors listed below. You have truly made a difference for families in our Beloved Community.

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Grants

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- Come to vigils, events and presentations
- Join us at our Love & Justice Breakfast, Annual Meeting and Annual Banquet
- Place an ad in our *Annual Report to the Community*
- Become a Sustaining Member
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A Beloved Community where every member contributes to the health and well-being of all and inclusion, justice, equity and compassion prevail.

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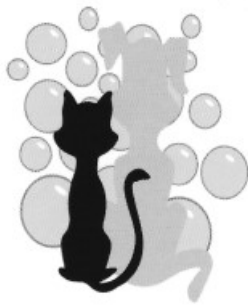
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Coming Together RACINE



Our Mission

To actively challenge and eliminate racism in the greater Racine community.

Our Vision

To create a genuine interracial community where all people have equal voice and access to resources and opportunities.

Our Purpose

To develop and conduct activities that support and advocate for the understanding and appreciation of diversity in the greater Racine community.

For more information, contact:

Nancy Piper, (262)634-1095, nancypiperjankovich@gmail.com



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A project of the Racine Interfaith Coalition Education Task Force.



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TriCity National Bank



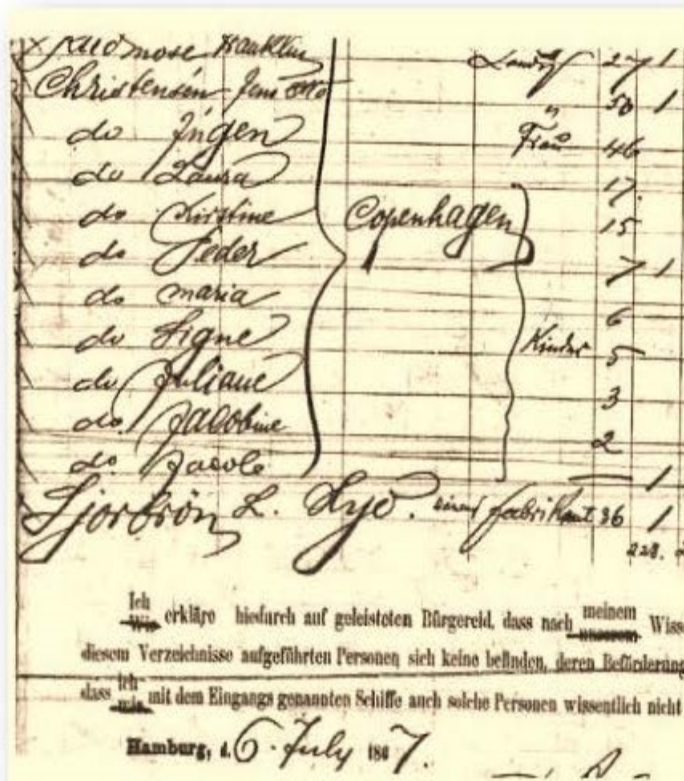
Hometown support from your hometown bank.

6 Racine-area locations

1.888.TRI.CITY | www.tcnb.com

Member
FDIC

NMLS# 433891



Remember, we are all immigrants. Our ancestors were poor, spoke no English, were sometimes ill, and brought all the kids!

Thank you, RIC, for all you do for our community.

Cathie & John Lehman

Voter Outreach Activities



Volunteers help stuff bags with literature to be dropped on doorsteps

Post cards sorted and stacked ready to be picked up by volunteers



RIC co-sponsored a community event celebrating the power of women voters



TURN UP THE VOTE! **Racine City Early Voting Locations**
Tue, Oct. 20 to Sun, Nov 1
All Day and Weekends

Festival Hall
 Mon. – Fri. 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
 Sat. 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM
 Sun, Nov 1, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Cesar Chavez Community Center
 Knappa Elementary School
 Mon. – Fri., 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Morning
John Bryant Community Center
Humble Park Community Center
Roosevelt Elementary School
 Mon. – Fri., 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Afternoon
Starbuck Middle School
Gilmore Elementary School
Tyler Domer Community Center
 Mon. – Fri., 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Evening
Gateway Technical College
 Mon. – Fri., 4:30 PM to 8:00 PM

For up-to-date info on early voting and absentee ballot drop-off locations, visit www.turnupthevote.org

Racine Interfaith Coalition
 2302A DeKoven Avenue
 Racine, WI 53403

TURN UP THE VOTE! *Your vote is your voice. Make sure it's heard.*

Option #1: Vote by Mail

- ✦ Request an absentee ballot online at myvote.wi.gov or fill out an absentee ballot request form and return it to your city clerk
- ✦ When you receive your ballot, fill it in completely and sign the return envelope
- ✦ Have a witness fill in all their information on the return envelope and sign it
- ✦ Mail your ballot at least 7 days before election day or deliver it to your city clerk's office
- ✦ Go to myvote.wi.gov to check to make sure it's been received

Option #2: Vote Early

- ✦ Vote in person up to two weeks before the election

Option #3: Vote on Election Day

- ✦ Vote in person on Tuesday, November 3, wear a mask and practice social distancing

Turn Up the Vote is a non-partisan task force of the Racine Interfaith Coalition

Have questions or need help?

- Text our voter hotline, **262-631-9176** with any questions about registering to vote, requesting an absentee ballot or voting.
- For a ride to the DMV to get an ID (if you don't have one), for a ride to your polling place on election day, or for someone to witness your absentee ballot, call the RIC office at **262-635-9532**.
- To check to be sure you're registered at your current address, to find your polling place, or to see what's on the ballot, go to myvote.wi.gov.

Racine Interfaith Coalition
 2302A DeKoven Avenue
 Racine, WI 53403

TURN UP THE VOTE!

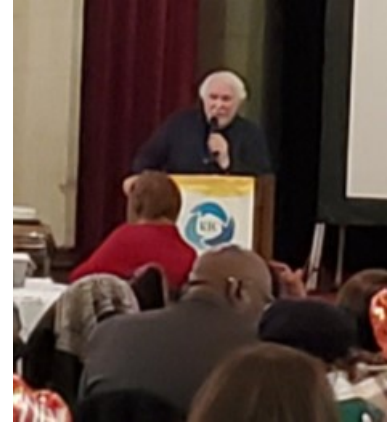
Love and Justice Breakfast



An overflow crowd attended the breakfast



Immigration Task Force members



Award winner Jim Schatzman addresses the crowd



Clergy-prepared desserts ready to be auctioned to the highest bidder



Award winner Ricardo Torres accepts his award

Annual (Food Truck) Banquet



Jessica Diaz and Maria Morales accepting their awards for community service

Please Join Us
Racine Interfaith Coalition
Food Truck Banquet
 Sunday, October 11, 2020
 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM*
 Christ Church United Methodist
 5109 Washington Ave
 Racine, WI

MASK & SOCIAL DISTANCING
 BRING Lawn Chair
 Purchase Lunch to support local businesses
 Silent Auction

This year's speakers will be
Scott Terry
 Educator and artist who
 Founded Black Humanity Now &
 The Sentinel Mentors Initiative
Jessica Diaz
 WISDOM State Immigration
 Organizer
 On the topic
"Working for Racial Equity"

Tickets are \$30/person and can be purchased via the
 RIC Facebook page, from RIC members, or by
 contacting the RIC office, 262-635-9532,
 ricracine1993@gmail.com.



Scott Terry addressing the outdoor banquet crowd

Racial Justice Activities

THE BORDER EXPERIENCE
Presented by
Catholic Coalition for Migrants and Refugees

PLEASE JOIN US FOR
THIS POWERFUL
PRESENTATION

February 24th
At 6:00 pm
Racine Public Library

Sponsored by Racine Interfaith Coalition
Immigration Task Force
For Questions, Please call
262-635-9532 or email the RIC office at
ric@racine1912@gmail.com

VOICES OF JUSTICE

Milton F. Dockery
"Where do we go from here?
A brief history of racism and its
impact on American society"

Followed by a reception and an
opportunity to participate in a
"Sacred Conversation" on Racism

January 25, 2020 10AM
Gateway Technical College
Great Lakes Room
1001 South Main St, Racine, WI
Accessible for People With Disabilities
Free Will offering

For More Information and to Reserve Seats
call 262 998-4094 or go to
www.racinedominicans.org/dcir/

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Wisconsin-Parkside
Dominican Center for
Justice Resources

Saint Luke Productions Presents

Tolton

From Slave to Priest

Sunday, March 1 4 pm | Monday, March 2 6:30 pm

Performed Live by
Jim Coleman

Siena Center
6635 Erie Street, Racine, WI 53402

Admission: Free-Will Offering
Seating is limited, reserve your seats at: www.racinedominicans.org/dcir/
Information: Dominican Center for Justice Resources
(262) 898-4094 or dcjr@racinedominicans.org

Sponsored by Dominican Center for Justice Resources, Racine Dominican Sisters, Racine Interfaith Coalition, Racine Police Department, Racine Public Library, Racine Vocational Ministry, Siena Retreat Center, and the University of Wisconsin-Parkside

www.ToltonDrama.com

Wisconsin's epidemic of mass incarceration is devastating Wisconsin communities by destroying lives, wasting taxpayer money, and failing to make us safer. Together we can fix this.

Broken system and put people before prisons - but only if we make our voices heard.

Together, we can fix our broken criminal justice system and put people before prisons. But it's going to take all of us making our voices heard.

Mixing an appointment should never mean a prison sentence. Be sure the Wisconsin Legislature knows where you stand on criminal justice reform.

Criminal relocations account for 40% of Wisconsin's prison admissions. Now we have a chance to break the cycle. Make your voice heard.

Instead of building new prisons, let us build up our communities. It is past time to address and fix our broken criminal justice system.

SMART JUSTICE LOBBY DAY
JANUARY 29, 2020
11:30
Wisconsin State Capitol
3 E Main St, Madison, WI 53703

PRISON REFORM SUMMIT

Reinvesting in People,
NOT Prisons
Making our
Communities Safer &
Stronger

Tuesday, March 24, 2020
6:00-8:00 pm
University of WI Parkside - Molinaro 105
Free parking in all campus lots

Why you should care!
How you can make a difference!

Our Presenters
David Liners - WISDOM Executive Director
Carl Fields, EXPO Organizer (Ex-Incarcerated People Organizing)
Ramiah Whiteside - WISDOM and EXPO member
Linda Boyle and Tamerin Hayward RIC Co-Presidents
Pastor Prentiss Robbins Jr. - Organizer Racine Interfaith Coalition

Sponsored by
Congregations United to Serve Humanity
Racine Interfaith Coalition

Stand In Solidarity with Burlington

Monday November 30, 2020
2:00 pm
Echo Lake Park, 589 Milwaukee Ave. Burlington, WI

It's our human duty to protect each other and to not be complacent in these times of change

Black Education Matters
Join us for a social distanced prayer vigil (masks required) followed by a car caravan. Signs will be provided or bring your own. Hang a balloon out of your car window.

If you have any questions, please call 262-635-9532

VOICES OF JUSTICE 2020 SERIES

Ana Garcia-Ashley
Executive Director
Daneville

**Creating Brave Space
One Relationship at a Time**

December 12, 2020 10AM
Presented via Zoom
Free Will Offering

To Register go to
www.racinedominicans.org/dcir/
Registration deadline: Friday, 12/11/2020 @ 8 PM

Once you are registered you will be put on the list to receive a link to join the session
For More Information, call 262 898-4094
For More Information and to Reserve Seats

Opening Our Hearts & Minds to End Racism 2020 Series

SPONSORS
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Racine Dominican Sisters and Associates
Racine Police Department
Racine Public Library
Racine Vocational Ministry
Restoration Ministries
Siena Retreat Center
University of Wisconsin-Parkside
Dominican Center for Justice Resources

Implicit Bias
to build stronger communities

Implicit bias... "the automatic association people make between groups of people, and stereotypes about those groups."

Join
David Liners Executive Director for Wisdom
Catoya Roberts Former Wisdom Associate State Director

as they help us deepen our understanding of implicit bias and the ways it impedes our ability to connect with people of different races.

Saturday, September 19, 2020
10AM - 1PM
Presented via Zoom
Free Will Offering

To Register go to
www.racinedominicans.org/dcir/
Registration deadline: Friday, 9/18/2020 @ 8 AM

You will receive a link to join and resources once you are registered
For More Information, call 262 898-4094

Opening Our Hearts & Minds to End Racism 2020 Series

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Racine Interfaith Coalition



The Buhler Family
Supports
Your
Valiant Efforts

MAKING OUR COMMUNITY A BETTER PLACE



"As a company, we have had a long-held philosophy to help make life better in the communities in which we operate."

Fisk Johnson
SC Johnson Chairman & CEO

