



Strategic Plan 2019-2021

Our Story

Our story begins with an inspired group of individuals at a 2004 National Council of Churches “Holy Waters” conference in Annapolis, Maryland, from which our organization, originally named Chesapeake Covenant Congregations, was created. We became Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake (IPC) in 2013 to reflect the diversity of faith communities in the Chesapeake region and the intention to bridge relationships across religious lines.



Strategic Direction

In the coming years, from 2019-2021, IPC will focus on mobilizing faith-based communities by creating interfaith “hubs of action.” This strategy values congregations as partners and enlists local leaders as champions. It is inclusive of diverse voices so that we can effectively address environmental injustices.

Creating interfaith hubs throughout our watershed is a natural evolution of our work, encouraging us to think and act bigger. Our plan lays out an ambitious pathway for building sustainable funding models and engaging the faith community to accelerate the restoration of our shared watershed.

Our Mission

To ignite the power of faith communities in the Chesapeake Bay region to honor all of Creation by working together to protect and restore our shared watershed. We envision a time when faith communities across the Chesapeake region honor, care for, and protect the watershed we share so all our communities, and future generations, may thrive.

Hubs of Action

A successful hub of action is a group of people of any faith working together to heal their local watershed by engaging in a variety of collaborative actions including: increasing public awareness, restoration and cleanup, advocating for policies that protect watersheds, and actively promoting environmental justice. Hubs provide a way to:

BUILD

Build faith leaders' capacity to be watershed champions

AMPLIFY

Amplify diverse voices in support of environmental justice

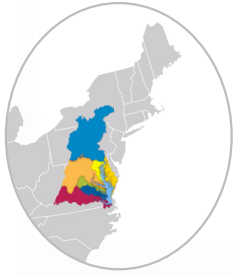
CONNECT

Connect watershed champions to each other

INCREASE

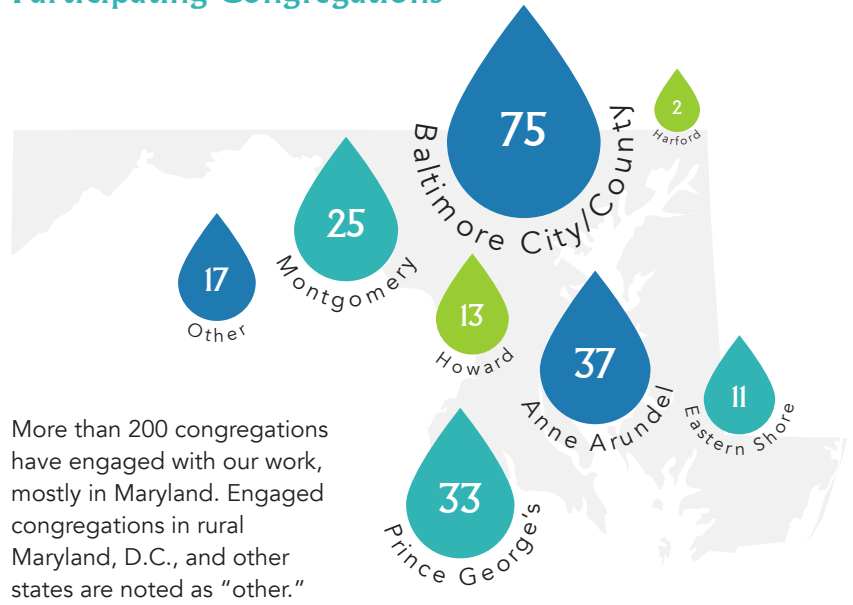
Increase faith communities' participation, visibility, and ability to work together

Chesapeake Bay Basins



- Susquehanna
- Potomac
- James
- Rappahannock
- York
- Western Bay
- Patuxent
- Eastern Shore

Participating Congregations



More than 200 congregations have engaged with our work, mostly in Maryland. Engaged congregations in rural Maryland, D.C., and other states are noted as "other."

Key Goals

1 Create faith-based hubs to increase action and impact

- Increase impact in MD, D.C., and PA
- Strengthen 3 hubs—and create 2 new ones—to take meaningful action restoring their local watershed
- Increase awareness and participation of congregations in the hubs
- Engage diverse and underrepresented voices in the hubs
- Stimulate cross-congregational collaborations around local environmental justice issues

3 Grow funding and partnerships

- Secure major funding to create and nurture regional hubs of faith-based action
- Triple financial support from non-grant sources
- 150 congregations formalize their support of IPC's vision and mission

2 Increase faith leaders' capacity and visibility

- Cultivate faith-based watershed champions through trainings and capacity-building
- Celebrate and recognize champions and the actions they spearhead
- Connect champions to each other through programs and communications
- Create opportunities to bring champions together for learning and celebration

4 Achieve organizational excellence

- Grow a strong board with diverse and talented volunteers
- Board and staff will execute smart action plans that guide program development and resource planning
- Recruit, develop, and retain diverse and effective staff to advance our mission