Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees of Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake is a group of individuals who are passionate about connecting our faith and values to caring for Creation. Serving on the Board of IPC is one way Board members live out their individual commitment of environmental stewardship and join with others of diverse faith backgrounds to form faithful stewards, and care for sacred waters in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Description of Role

IPC Board members advise, govern and oversee policy and strategic direction of Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake, and assist the Executive Director in implementing our organizational mission. During their term of service, they work together collegially to further our sacred covenant to care for the Earth and all its inhabitants, by seeking to increase environmental stewardship throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The Board of Trustees serves as the organization’s fiduciary authority and are ethically responsible for the activities of the organization.

Vision statement: Faith communities across the Chesapeake region honor, care for, and protect the watershed we share so all our communities, and future generations, may thrive.

Mission statement: 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.

Board Member Responsibilities:

- Share in and be committed to IPC’s mission
- Attend 5 in-person meetings per year, all held in Maryland in Howard County.
- Participate in a once-a-year vision/planning retreat, paid for by IPC. In the past, this retreat has been an overnight in Howard County at Bon Secours Retreat Center, or a day-time excursion with discussions.
- Serve as an officer, support one of the officers in a task force (for example, the strategic planning task force), or serve as a member of at least one standing committee
- Make a personal contribution commensurate with one’s ability; your gift should be larger than what you typically donate to other organizations, but we have not established a minimum giving requirement
- Be alert to community concerns that can be addressed by IPC’s mission, objectives and programs and raise these at board meetings
- Participate in our annual appeal by asking family/friends to support IPC; in the past some board members have orchestrated Facebook birthday fundraisers, others have provided names to IPC staff to send appeal letters to
- Provide financial oversight, including adopting and monitoring the annual budget
- Identify and resolve conflicts of interest

Meetings

- The Board meets at The Meeting House in Columbia, Howard County, and strongly encourages in-person attendance. The board is open to discussing alternative dates, times, locations, and formats as board members’ needs change.
- Meetings typically last 3 hours
Committees of the board are formed by consensus of the Board and meet as required to achieve their assigned goals. Currently, IPC has an Executive committee, Finance committee, Governance Committee, Program Committee, and Advocacy Committee.

Committee meetings are typically held via conference call, but occasionally they choose to meet in-person as needed.

The Program Committee and Advocacy Committee are open to non-Board members, but are Chaired by a board member.

**Length of term:** Each term is three (3) years and can be renewed for a second term if invited by the board to renew.

**Officers of the Board:** Officers include Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary. Officers are elected by the Board and hold office for one year. There are no limits on the number of years that an officer can serve, total or consecutively. The Governance Committee makes recommendations to the board in November regarding officer positions. Officers serve January to December.

**Insurance:** IPC’s Board of Trustees are covered under Directors and Officers Liability insurance. IPC as an organization also maintains General Liability and Worker’s Compensation insurance.

**Current Board Members:** Current members of the Board of Trustees are listed on the IPC website at [www.interfaithchesapeake.org](http://www.interfaithchesapeake.org), click on “About” then click on “Trustees.”

**Social Media:** IPC is on Facebook (Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake) and Twitter (@IPC_Chesapeake). Board members are encouraged to follow us on social media and interact with our announcements on-line.