

GROWING A MOVEMENT *of the* FAITHFUL



Interfaith
Partners for the
CHESAPEAKE

2020 Annual Report

“

You shall be called the healer of the breach, the restorer of the streets to live in.” — Isaiah 58:12b

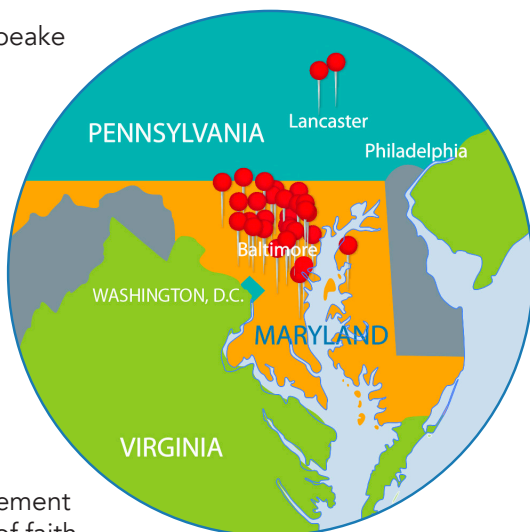
MISSION

To ignite the power of faith communities in the Chesapeake region to honor all of Creation by working together to protect and restore our shared watershed.

Partner Congregations are Joining the Movement

Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake (IPC) is building a movement of faith communities throughout the Chesapeake who are answering the call to honor, protect, and restore the sacred blessings of creation and our shared waterways that sustain and nurture us. We’re inviting congregations to demonstrate their commitment to our shared goals by signing our Partner Congregation Pledge.

The pledge helps build our movement and shines a light on the power of faith communities to preserve our future. Our goal is for 150 congregations to sign the pledge by the end of 2021.



Join the movement by signing the pledge!

Learn more about the pledge or sign it online at InterfaithChesapeake.org/Congregations

HIGHLIGHT ON PARTNER CONGREGATIONS

Community Mennonite Church of Lancaster: Lancaster, Pennsylvania

We connected with volunteers at this church as we co-organized a walking tour in Lancaster. Nearly 120 people participated in the tour and learned about their amazing stormwater management project, which reduced their pollution by 88%. They were one of the first congregations in Lancaster to sign the pledge and we continue to work with volunteers from Lancaster to offer more educational programs for faithful stewards.



Before



After

A movement is building in Lancaster!

Stillmeadow Community Fellowship: Baltimore, Maryland

IPC was first introduced to Pastor Michael Martin in May of 2019 after his Southwest Baltimore community was ravaged by two flooding catastrophes. Pastor Michael has a vision for a "Peace Park," turning the 10-acre forest situated on church grounds into a place of healing, learning, and spiritual renewal. The church has cleared walking paths, held outdoor nature camps, and is working with the U.S. Forest Service to revitalize the forest by removing invasive species and planting 2,000 saplings. A cistern system was installed to support the sapling nursery as well as a pollinator garden.



*A movement is building
in West Baltimore!*

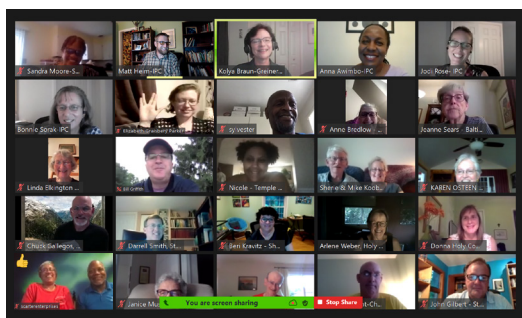
GREEN TEAMS: A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

“

Learning how to do one-on-one meetings and taking the time to do them is totally worth it. [We] found out that three of our green team members grew up on farms. Sometimes you have to slow down to move ahead faster.”

— Cynthia Taylor, Mount Olive United Methodist Church

Green Teams are joining the movement!



Despite dealing with a global pandemic and heightened awareness of long-standing racial tensions, congregations were steadfast in their commitment to being good stewards of God's Creation. Our first in-person training in February was an inspiring show of excitement with 81

people attending, representing 23 congregations. Then, Covid-19 hit, and our next four in-person trainings had to be cancelled.

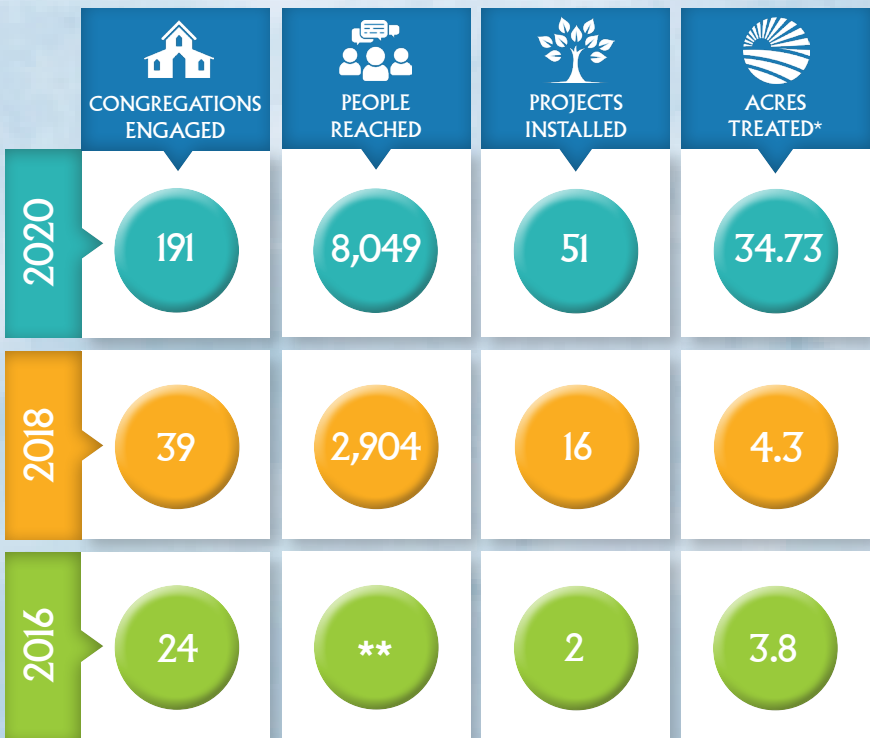
IPC staff quickly retooled to offer the training online, and attracted some big-name keynote speakers to energize the green teams: Bill McKibben (350.org), Eboo Patel (Interfaith Youth Core), and Rev. Fletcher Harper (GreenFaith). Since the program's inception, 250 people have attended the trainings, representing 82 congregations. We've also offered monthly Learning Labs, in which 254 people have participated.

St. Thomas Episcopal church owns a large property in the upper reaches of the Gwynn Falls watershed. When IPC began promoting our Faithful Green Leaders Training program they quickly recruited 12 people to join their team. Despite Covid-19, they worked together to install a pollinator garden while socially distanced.



ONE WATER PARTNERSHIP: CLEAN WATER, ONE COMMUNITY AT A TIME

The One Water Partnership is a growing network of faith communities in the Chesapeake Bay watershed coming together to care for local waterways in their own communities. From Salisbury to Baltimore, and Annapolis to Lancaster, PA, nearly 200 congregations are working together to restore clean water. Some are planting trees, others are replacing paved surfaces with pollinator gardens, and others are hosting movie nights or special sermons to raise awareness. Together their actions tremendously benefit the shared waters of their communities.



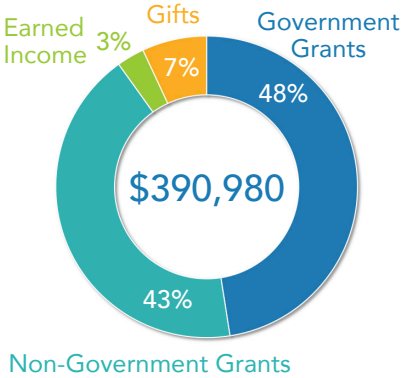
* Includes projects in design and in progress

** Not tracked at that time

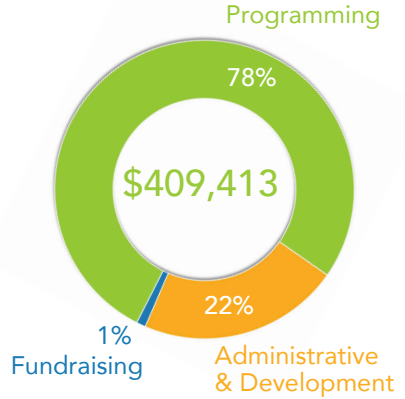
2020 FINANCES

As of September 30, 2020

TOTAL INCOME



TOTAL EXPENSES



Magnify the Movement — Give a Gift!

You can help strengthen our work, reach more congregations, train more green leaders, and advocate for a restored Creation. Consider becoming a monthly supporter.

www.InterfaithChesapeake.org/Donate



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Catonsville Presbyterian Church (Envision Fund)
Christ Episcopal Church of Rockville
Delaware-Maryland Synod of the ELCA
Frederick Friends Meeting
Homewood Friends Meeting, Baltimore
Saint Margaret's Episcopal Church, Annapolis
Seeker's Church Transfiguration
Episcopal Church, Silver Spring



Protecting the Chesapeake Together

Help us strengthen the faith community's impact by supporting Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake today.

You can donate:

- Online at www.InterfaithChesapeake.org/donate.
- By check made out to "Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake" and mailed to the address at the bottom of this page.
- Donations of stock are gratefully accepted.
Please contact jodi@InterfaithChesapeake.org.

Thank you for your support!

410-609-6852 • InterfaithChesapeake.org

P.O. Box 6791, Annapolis, MD 21401

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