

History of DCIA

In 1969, four congregations in downtown Durham, NC, organized the Inner-City Church Council to address together needs for transportation and visitation for the elderly, and soon also started programs for children and youth. It incorporated in 1972 and, during the next six years, membership grew to 12 congregations. In 1976, the group's name changed to Durham Congregations In Action, and its membership continued to grow over the years to include dozens of congregations of Christians, Jews, Muslims, and others cooperating together in service.

Over the decades, DCIA has built a history of initiating cooperative programs among people of faith to **address unmet community needs and put belief into action for interfaith learning and cooperation, and against poverty, racism and violence.** Programs serving the Durham community that were launched or cosponsored at their start by DCIA have included:

Meals On Wheels, Urban Ministries of Durham, Host Homes, DSS Emergency Energy Fund, Genesis Home, Families First, Interfaith AIDS Alliance, Interfaith Hospitality Network, Religious Coalition for a Nonviolent Durham, One World Market, Capital Restorative Justice Project, Durham Economic Resource Center, Partners for Youth Opportunity, Circles of Support and Accountability (COSA)

and MANY other shorter-term projects over the years. From the beginning, DCIA has created space and opportunity for people of different traditions and ethnicities to share and to grow from each other's strengths and experience, putting shared values to work. The shape of DCIA's services over the years has changed, but it has continued to build bridges among its members and to the most vulnerable and forgotten in our community, planting seeds in new initiatives to change lives in Durham.

COMMUNITY AGENCIES RESOURCING

DCIA allocates CROP Walk funds and administers other funding resources for dozens of local organizations addressing poverty, violence, racism, hunger, and homelessness. DCIA also maintains a community resource guide to programs providing emergency food, shelter, clothing, and financial assistance.

2015 Officers and Board Members

Hank Eichin, St. Matthew's Catholic Church,
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Rev. Jonah Kendall, St. Philip's Episcopal Church
Rebecca Harvard Barnes, First Presbyterian Church
Rev. Brad Troxell, Congregation at Duke Chapel
Gordon Whitaker, Watts Street Baptist Church

Staff

Rev. Spencer Bradford, Executive Director
Christyn Klinck, YSSW Coordinator (Volunteer)
Camryn Smith, REAL Durham Coordinator
Aidil Ortiz Hill, REAL Durham Coach
Miriam Valle, Administrative Coordinator

Durham Congregations In Action

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*Office is on the top floor of
Duke Memorial United Methodist Church.*

*Please enter at rear door of church
facing Memorial St., beside playground.*



A United Way
of the Greater Triangle
Partner Agency

DURHAM CONGREGATIONS IN ACTION



**An Inter-religious,
Multi-ethnic Network
Of Spiritual Communities
Changing Lives For Four Decades**

DCIA AFFIRMATION

In a spirit of reconciliation

*and with gratitude for the gift of diversity,
DCIA seeks to engage and empower
people of faith to create
a community of justice and peace
through our common prayers
and acts of compassion;*

*and with prophetic courage to act as advocates
for the dignity and well-being of all persons,
recognizing that behind every human face
is the face of God.*

Member Congregations

Aldersgate United Methodist Church
Asbury United Methodist Church
At His Feet Ministries International
Beth El Conservative & Orthodox Synagogue
Blacknall Memorial Presbyterian Church
Chapel of the Cross (*Chapel Hill affiliate*)
Church of Reconciliation (*Chapel Hill affiliate*)
City of Joy Ministries
Congregation at Duke Chapel
Covenant Presbyterian Church
Croasdaile Village Religious Life
Duke Memorial United Methodist Church
Durham Friends Meeting
Durham Mennonite Church
Durham Shambhala Center
Eno River Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Epworth United Methodist Church
First Chronicles Community Church
First Presbyterian Church
Fisher Memorial United Holy Church
God First People Second Full Gospel Church
Holy Cross Catholic Church
Holy Infant Catholic Church
Imani Metropolitan Community Church
Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
Judea Reform Congregation
Knights of Columbus Council 3390
Lowe's Grove Baptist Church
McMannen United Methodist Church
Mt. Calvary United Church of Christ
Mt. Hermon Baptist Church
New Creation United Methodist Church
Open Table Ministry
Our Savior Lutheran Church
Parkwood United Methodist Church
Peace Covenant Church of the Brethren
Pilgrim United Church of Christ
Russell Memorial CME Church
S & S Ministries
Shepherd's House United Methodist Church
St. Joseph's AME Church
St. Joseph's Episcopal Church
St. Luke's Episcopal Church
St. Matthew's Catholic Church
St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
St. Philip's Episcopal Church
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
St. Titus Episcopal Church
Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church
Trinity United Methodist Church
W. Deen Mohammed Islamic Center
Watts Street Baptist Church
Westminster Presbyterian Church

CURRENTLY SPONSORED MINISTRIES

REAL Durham

Teams of volunteer allies share support and service with parents of families in material poverty who are working to achieve stability and sustainable employment. Partnered families identify key goals and objectives that their team can support them in pursuing. Increasing income and assets, bolstering job retention, involving the community in individual solutions, and addressing systemic barriers are some of the related outcomes that strengthen both individual families and the wider community. End Poverty Durham co-sponsors REAL Durham.



CROP Walk starts on Duke's West Campus

CROP HUNGER WALK

Since 1975, DCIA has sponsored this local walkathon for world hunger and disaster relief through Church World Service, which uses 75% of the funds raised for crisis assistance and development work around the globe. DCIA distributes 25% of the funds raised to various local hunger relief programs, recently averaging between \$35,000 and \$50,000 per year. Since 1975, the Durham CROP Hunger Walk has raised more than \$3,800,000, and DCIA has distributed over \$876,000 locally.

INTER-RELIGIOUS CONVERSATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

DCIA organizes inter-religious events and meetings, including a community Thanksgiving celebration, community ceremonies around particular topics such as homelessness and domestic violence, text studies and topical dialogues, shared service events, and social meals. These deepen participants' experience of their own faiths and that of others. DCIA's "Sacred Visitations" are occasions when leaders from a congregation are prepared to host guests from other traditions at their site and ceremonies, and to provide an introduction to and discussion about the host tradition.

YOUTH SUMMER SERVICE WEEK

YSSW provides high-school youth with a local, week-long urban mission experience each summer. Diverse teams of youth work together with local agencies who house the homeless, feed the hungry, better the environment, and care for our neighbors in need. Participants learn about Durham and themselves through a variety of service projects, conversations with service providers, and sharing with each other.

LEADERSHIP EDUCATION AND ORIENTATIONS

DCIA each year holds a luncheon to welcome ministers new to Durham and to introduce them to colleagues. We also invite ministers to periodic ministerial gatherings for relational networking and sharing. We offer orientations and tours of different service networks in Durham to equip ministers in their work, such as orientations to hunger relief services in Durham, homelessness and housing services, and mental health services. We annually host a meeting of congregational leaders with leaders of community service agencies to discuss needs and strategies related to poverty relief. DCIA also provides consultation to individual congregations on organizing social ministries.