

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.

DCIA ORGANIZES INTERFAITH

LEARNING AND COOPERATION AGAINST POVERTY, RACISM AND VIOLENCE. For decades, DCIA congregations have learned from the best information available about community needs and challenges. And during those decades, DCIA has built a history of initiating cooperative programs among people of faith to address those issues. Programs serving the Durham community that were launched or cosponsored at their start by DCIA have included:

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

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.

2017 Officers and Board Members

Joy Mickle, Durham Shambhala Center, President
Rev. Warren Herndon, City of Joy Ministries,
Vice-President
Bob Newlin, Parkwood United Methodist, Treasurer

Rebecca Harvard Barnes, Mt. Bethel Presbyterian
Charles Byrd, Westminster Presbyterian Church
Marilyn Christian, Pilgrim United Church of Christ
Jessie Giles, Fisher Memorial United Holy Church
Richard Hart, Beth El Synagogue
LaNella Smith, New Creation United Methodist
Abdul Waheed, W.Dean Muhammed Islamic Center
Gordon Whitaker, Watts Street Baptist Church

Staff

Rev. Spencer Bradford, Executive Director
Miriam Valle, Administrative Coordinator

Durham Congregations In Action
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www.dcia.org

*DCIA's office is on the top floor of
Duke Memorial United Methodist Church.
Please enter at rear door of church
facing Memorial St., under brown canopy.*

The DCIA Assembly meets publicly
on the third Tuesday of each month,
except for January and July,
at a different house of worship
or spiritual gathering each month.
The date, time and venue of the upcoming
meeting is posted on the dcia.org home page.

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.*

45 Member Congregations & Spiritual Organizations

Aldersgate United Methodist Church
Asbury United Methodist Church
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 Baptist
Congregation at Duke Chapel
Covenant Presbyterian Church
Croasdale 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
Holy Cross Catholic Church
Holy Infant Catholic Church
Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
Impact Church of Durham
Judea Reform Congregation
Lowe's Grove Baptist Church
McMannen United Methodist Church
New Creation United Methodist 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 United Methodist Church
W. Deen Mohammed Islamic Center
Watts Street Baptist Church
Westminster Presbyterian Church

CURRENTLY SPONSORED MINISTRIES

STRONG FATHERS

Strong Fathers is a 20-week strengths-based intervention for fathers who have engaged in domestic violence or are at-risk of doing so. Weekly meetings last 2.5 hours and include dinner, a check-in, and exploration of the week's topic. Up to 12 fathers participate in each group and form strong and lasting relationships with other participants.

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. DCIA also administers federal funds for hunger relief and homeless services by local direct service programs.

INTER-RELIGIOUS RELATIONS

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 organizes "Sacred Visitations" when leaders from a congregation host guests from other traditions at their site and ceremonies, to provide an introduction to and discussion about the host tradition. DCIA also connects Partner Congregations of different traditions and ethnicities for longer-term relationships of presence and participation with one another.

REAL DURHAM

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

LEADERSHIP EDUCATION and ORIENTATIONS

DCIA welcomes ministers new to Durham and introduces them to colleagues, and also invites ministers to periodic gatherings for relational networking and sharing. Our monthly assembly meetings inform leaders about important community developments. To equip ministers and lay leaders for effective work, we offer orientations and tours of different service networks, such as hunger relief services, homelessness and housing services, and mental health services. We connect congregational leaders with leaders of community service agencies to discuss needs and strategies related to poverty relief. DCIA maintains community resource guides to programs providing emergency food, shelter, clothing, and financial assistance. DCIA also provides consultation to individual congregations on organizing social ministries.