



**Council of Religious Leaders
of Metropolitan Chicago**

2021-2022 Major Initiatives

www.crlmc.org

Here are some highlights from major initiatives of the Council of Religious Leaders of Metropolitan Chicago (CRLMC).

COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign

Since December 2021, CRLMC has been conducting a citywide campaign to vaccinate people through local congregations in undervaccinated areas of Chicago. Support for this effort is provided by the Chicago Vaccine Partnership. Coordinated by Partners in Health, the Partnership is a collaboration of 160+ organizations dedicated to building a healthier, more resilient Chicagoland and is funded by the Health First Collaborative and incubated at the Michael Reese Health Trust.

Twenty congregations representing eight different denominations and located across the city have hosted more than 50 vaccination events with the support of Prism Health Lab and ASI NE Healthcare Services have administered vaccinations at each congregation. Together, these congregations are responsible for more than 600 vaccinations in Chicago.



City of Chicago Police Reform

In April 2022, the Chicago Police Department introduced a new policy on “Religious Interactions.” The policy, the first of its kind for CPD, defines the protocols for Department members to ensure the proper treatment of all individuals of any religion. The new policy, one of the first of its kind in the nation, defines CPD policy regarding the proper treatment of all persons of any religion by CPD members.

CRLMC has worked with CPD for more than a year to develop this policy. CRLMC is now working with CPD to develop training on this policy which will be administered to all sworn members through e-learning and within mandatory annual in-service training.

Faith & Trust Future Interfaith Leader Cohort

During 2022 CRLMC has worked with the **Faith & Trust Future InterFaith Leader Cohort** to foster interfaith relationships and collaboration through dialogue and to explore what conditions are necessary to achieve individual and social trust. Support for the cohort is provided by the Chicago Community Trust.

The cohort, who hold positions of leadership in ten different faith traditions in the City of Chicago and are all under age 45, has met in monthly seminars with CRLMC members as well as representatives of the Chicago Police Department to learn more about each other, explore issues of community concern, and identify ways to address deficits of mutual trust in the community. The cohort is planning and will conduct the CRLMC Future Interfaith Leadership Conference in November.

continued



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Future Interfaith Leadership Conference

In November 2022, CRLMC will host an inaugural **Future Interfaith Leadership Conference** to promote an ethic of understanding and respectful dialogue among the next generation of faith leaders. Support for the conference is provided through a Nehemiah Grant from the Chicago Sunday Evening Club.

Participation is open to faith leaders up to age 45 in Chicago and the Metropolitan area who have formal leadership roles in their communities. Participants will share insights on identifying and collaborating on issues of common concern in order to strengthen civic trust. Activities will be led by members of the CRLMC Faith & Trust Future Interfaith Leader Cohort as well as CRLMC members. For more information visit <https://www.crlmc.org/nextgeninterfaith.html>.

InterFaith Calendar™

In December, CRLMC will release the **2023 InterFaith Calendar**, an award-winning full-color resource that features observances with explanations for 17 different faith communities. The wall calendar also includes information about basic beliefs, practices, religious writings, art, and demographics for each community. Orders can be placed at <https://www.crlmc.org/interfaithcalendar.html>

Fall 2022 will also see the debut of Version 2.0 of the InterFaith Calendar App for iPhone and Android. The app brings together the dates and descriptions of observances for 17 religious communities with basic information and an image for each faith tradition prepared by the believers themselves. It is available for download at <https://www.crlmc.org/interfaithcalapp.html>



Interfaith Thanksgiving Observance



On November 23, members of many different faith communities will gather for the Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Observance. Hosted and co-sponsored by the First United Methodist Church in the Chicago Temple, the hour-long Observance features words of thanks and consideration along with musical selections from over a dozen faith traditions.

As part of the Observance, CRLMC also sponsors a joint collection of funds to provide holiday meals for those in need. All funds will be distributed among different faith-based charitable organizations in Chicago following the Observance. Donations can be made at <https://www.crlmc.org/interfaith-thanksgiving-observance.html>

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