



**Council of Religious Leaders
of Metropolitan Chicago**

2023 Year in Review

www.crlmc.org

Below are highlights from the work of the Council of Religious Leaders of Metropolitan Chicago (CRLMC) in 2023.

Faith & Trust Future Interfaith Leadership 2023-2024 Cohort

In Fall 2023 CRLMC will begin its second **Faith & Trust Future Interfaith Leadership Cohort** with emerging faith leaders in the metropolitan area. The cohort is designed to foster interreligious relationships and collaboration among established leaders under age 45 through dialogue and to explore the conditions necessary for building individual and social trust.

The cohort will meet for the first of five monthly seminars beginning in late 2023 and culminate in a leadership conference in May 2024. Visit <https://www.crlmc.org/nextgeninterfaith.html> for more information or to apply.

2023 Convening of the Parliament of the World's Religions

In August 2023 the Parliament of the World's Religions returned to its birthplace in Chicago for its 2023 Convening. The Parliament began at the 1893 Columbian Exposition, marking the birth of the modern interfaith movement. CRLMC members participated in 20 different plenaries, activities, workshops, and other sessions during the five-day Convening, and President Barbara Abrajano gave words of welcome at the Opening Ceremony.

“No single community of faith working alone can resolve the challenges that all of us face. If we stand together for what we all believe, then our diversity is our greatest strength. We show people that there is another, better way.”

– President Barbara Abrajano

Chicago Police Department Reform

CRLMC continued its work in 2023 with the Chicago Police Department to implement a new “Religious Interactions” policy. 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. In support of this policy, CRLMC is preparing a guide to head coverings, dress, sacred objects, and places of worship to aid and support CPD officers in their encounters with the many faith communities of the city.

Recognition of Chicago Faith Leaders in Civil Rights Movement

At present there is no official commemoration of the many faith leaders who were active in the modern Civil Rights Movement in the City of Chicago. CRLMC is working with city officials and other organizations to establish a permanent monument to these local leaders who advanced the ideals of justice and dignity in our community.

continued



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2024 InterFaith Calendar

CRLMC released in September 2023 the 2024 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/2024calendar.html>

CRLMC has released the next iteration of **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. Scan this QR code for a free download.



Interfaith Thanksgiving Observance

Each November CRLMC gathers representatives from more than a dozen faith traditions 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. The Observance also features a joint interfaith collection of funds to provide holiday meals for the hungry. Funds are collected through December, and 100% of donations are distributed to different faith-based food banks and kitchens affiliated with CRLMC members. Scan this QR to make a donation.



About the Council of Religious Leaders of Metropolitan Chicago

The Council of Religious Leaders of Metropolitan Chicago (CRLMC) promotes dialogue and collaboration among faith communities of Metropolitan Chicago to advance the common good. A nonprofit organization founded in 1984, CRLMC is comprised of the head religious leadership of practically every major religious tradition in the broader Chicago area. CRLMC engages government on issues of public concern; fosters interfaith cooperation and respect; responds to religious intolerance, discrimination, and desecration; and supports local religious communities with guidance and resources.

Help us celebrate our 40th anniversary in 2024.

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