

History of DCIA

In 1969, four congregations in downtown Durham, NC, organized the Center 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 communities of diverse faiths to work for racial justice, social equity, and human dignity.

DCIA offers a unique opportunity to bring leaders from our different faith communities together, to get acquainted and become friends, and to share a deeper understanding of the compassion that is at the center of all of our spiritual traditions. **We lead inter-faith learning and cooperation to overcome 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, Bull City Fair Trade, Partners for Youth Opportunity, Circles of Support and Accountability (COSA), Youth Summer Service Week, Strong Fathers, REAL Durham* 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.

2023 Officers and Board Members

Rev. Donna Banks, President, Epworth UMC
Hope Hartman, Vice-President, Beth El Synagogue
Bob Newlin, Treasurer, Parkwood United Methodist
Dennis Cullen, Secretary, Westminster Presbyterian
Rev. Tanya Best, Mt. Calvary UCC
Larry Brown, Bahá'í Community of Durham
Rev. Deborah Cayer, Eno River U.U. Fellowship
Dr. Warren Herndon, City of Joy Internat. Ministry
Katushka Olave, Immaculate Conception Catholic
Rev. Michael Page, Antioch Baptist Church
Rashad Rahman, WD Muhammed Islamic Center
Kevin Griffin, Ar-Razzaq Islamic Center
Gordon Whitaker, Watts St. Baptist Church
Jo Wall, Cole Mill Rd. Church of Christ
Rev. Lindy Wood, Pilgrim UCC

Rev. Breana van Velzen, Executive Director
Miriam Valle, CPA



DCIA AFFIRMATION

*In a spirit of reconciliation
and with gratitude for the gift of diversity,
DCIA seeks to educate, 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.*

DURHAM CONGREGATIONS IN ACTION



**An Inter-religious,
Multi-ethnic Network
Of Spiritual Communities
In Durham, NC
Seeking justice and peace
for all people**

Member Congregations & Spiritual Organizations

Antioch Baptist Church
Asbury United Methodist Church
Baha'i Community of Durham
Beth El Conservative & Orthodox Synagogue
Christus Victor Lutheran Church
Church of the Abiding Savior, Lutheran
Church of Jesus Christ, Latter Day Saints
Church of Reconciliation (*Chapel Hill affiliate*)
City of Joy Ministries
Cole Mill Rd. Church of Christ
Congregation at Duke Chapel
Covenant Presbyterian Church
Croasdaile Village Religious Life
Duke Memorial United Methodist Church
Duke University Chapel
Durham Friends Meeting
Durham Mennonite Church
Durham Shambhala Center
Elizabeth St. United Methodist Church
Eno River Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Epworth United Methodist Church
First Presbyterian Church
Fisher Memorial United Holy Church
Greater Full Assurance Int. Ministries
Holy Cross Catholic Church
Holy Infant Catholic Church
Iglesia Presbiteriana Emanuel
Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
Immanuel Temple 7th-Day Adventist Church
Judea Reform Congregation
La Semilla
Masjid Muhammed
McMannen United Methodist Church
Mt. Bethel Presbyterian Church
Mt. Calvary United Church of Christ
New Creation United Methodist Church
Parkwood United Methodist Church
Peace Covenant Church of the Brethren
Pilgrim United Church of Christ
St. Luke's Episcopal Church
St. Joseph's AME Church
St. Joseph'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 Ave. Presbyterian Church
Trinity United Methodist Church
W. Deen Mohammed Islamic Center
Watts Street Baptist Church

Westminster Presbyterian Church A sampling of currently sponsored ministries

END HUNGER DURHAM

End Hunger Durham (EHD) is a network of organizations and individuals working to promote food security and access to healthy food for all in Durham. EHD builds capacity of hunger-fighting programs and individuals by facilitating communication and collaboration, with focus on the perspective of patrons of their services. EHD collects and shares reliable information about hunger to strengthen hunger-fighting organizations in their mission, to build community commitment to their work, and to advocate for just food policies that will address long-term solutions to hunger.

CROP HUNGER WALK

Since 1975, DCIA has sponsored this premier walkathon for world hunger and disaster relief through Church World Service, which uses 75% of the funds raised for relief and development work around the globe. DCIA distributes 25% of the funds raised to various local hunger relief programs. Since 1975, the Durham CROP Hunger Walk has raised nearly \$5,000,000, and DCIA has distributed over \$900,000 locally



FOOD SECURITY GRANTS & EMERGENCY FOOD & SHELTER PROGRAM

DCIA organizes and administers funding for front-line partner organizations providing direct services for hunger and poverty relief. For more than 20 years, we have administered local FEMA funds in the EFSP program, and during the pandemic, we have

also managed state and county funding for hunger relief and prisoner re-entry services.

INTER-RELIGIOUS RELATIONS

DCIA organizes and educates the community about inter-religious events and meetings. DCIA organizes programming such as "Sacred Visitations", "Festival of Faiths" and many more. DCIA assists with connections for Partner Congregations of different traditions and ethnicities for longer-term relationships of presence and participation with one another as we strive toward equity and reconciliation.



CROP Walk starts on Duke's West Campus

LEADERSHIP EDUCATION, ORIENTATIONS & CONNECTIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

DCIA connects the Durham faith community with each other and with service agencies. DCIA does this in part by hosting monthly assembly meetings, faith-based orientations and tours of different service networks (hunger-relief, homelessness and housing, and mental health services ect.). 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.**