



GET CONNECTED



# 2017 ANNUAL REPORT





# GET CONNECTED!

Faith in Place connects people of diverse faiths to the environmental movement because we are a powerful force for change.

When we connect the beliefs of our faith traditions with the problems facing our neighbors and the planet, we are deeply motivated to act.

In 2017, our growing network of 111 Green Teams gathered at their respective houses of worship each month and connected their faith with their place by implementing our Earth care programs across the state of Illinois.

In the next pages, you will see how these connections made an impact, thanks to your generous support!

We empowered thoughtful reflection about how our energy choices today impact our neighbors across the world tomorrow.

We introduced faith communities to energy conservation resources. We helped four houses of worship connect solar panels to the grid.

We went outdoors to connect further with the land. We considered the distance that our food traveled. We built relationships with our local farmers.

We took steps to preserve water quality, because what happens upstream affects those downstream.

We connected social justice with environmental justice. Race, socioeconomic status, and environmental degradation are all interconnected.

We were moved to action by our moral obligation to care for the land and each other. We partnered with other advocacy organizations to connect returning citizens and foster care alumni with jobs in the clean energy economy.

And we connected with one another.

Our Second Annual Green Team Summit drew over 400 people of diverse faiths from across Illinois together for a day of sharing ideas and listening to speakers to inspire further change in their communities.

We look forward to continuing to collaborate with people of diverse faiths to listen, learn, and lead for environmental justice in 2018.

In connection,

Rev. Brian J. Sauder  
President

Dr. Ashlynn Stillwell  
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Faith in Place is the  
Illinois Affiliate of  
Interfaith Power & Light

*Faith in Place empowers  
Illinois people of all faiths  
to be leaders in caring  
for the Earth, providing  
resources to educate,  
connect, and advocate  
for healthier communities.*





Just Christ Ministries in Chicago was the first recipient of a loan from the Nonprofit Green Lending Program. Church members held a meeting to let fellow clergy from the neighborhood know about this opportunity.

“With this loan, our church will be able to invest in energy efficiency to be greener, save money on utility bills and rent, and use the money that we save to expand our involvement in the neighborhood.”

- Pastor Anthony Wright, Just Christ Ministries, Chicago (Pictured above, first row, second from right)



An energy audit and lighting upgrades at First United Methodist Church in Normal helped the congregation significantly reduce their electric bill and made the sanctuary look brighter. Pictured above: Pastor Kent King-Nobles and Pastor Kathy King-Nobles.

## ENERGY & CLIMATE CHANGE

In 2017, Faith in Place launched a new initiative to help houses of worship move beyond simply learning about opportunities for energy efficiency to enacting them.


Faith in Place regularly offers basic free energy audits to faith communities across Illinois.

However, over the years, we noticed that many faith communities struggled to make the suggested changes because they lacked the funds upfront or banks refused to lend money – even though the savings on utility bills would pay for the upgrades relatively quickly.

Faith in Place connected with the Illinois State Treasurer's Office and Everence Credit Union to launch the Nonprofit Green Lending Program in 2017.

This program provides low-interest loans to nonprofits, such as houses of worship, for sustainability improvements.

## 2017 IMPACT

More than  people educated about solar energy options at presentations to faith partners

4 partner houses of worship installed solar panels

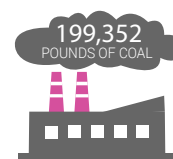
6,116 individuals educated about smart energy



## RESULTING IN:

244,832 kWh saved  
(A 54% increase from last year)

182 metric tons of greenhouse gas reduced, the equivalent of



\$29,166 savings on utility bills

4,722 trees planted





## SUSTAINABLE FOOD & LAND USE

Last year, our series of indoor Winter Farmers Markets at 17 different houses of worship throughout Chicagoland connected people with local farmers and vendors to support sustainable foods during the slower winter months and helped consumers learn about the source of their food.

Recognizing that access to fresh, local foods is a justice issue, we secured funding to match purchases of customers using Link/SNAP benefits (previously known as food stamps) at all markets.

Link Match customers had the opportunity to take home up to \$25 worth of additional fruits and vegetables. Link sales increased by 22% in 2017!

“Having the Link & Link Match programs enabled us to publicize our Winter Farmers Market to ALL of our community members. It was an important way to enable some of the clients of a neighboring food pantry to participate in our wonderful market!”

-Pastor Carla Thompson Powell, United in Faith Lutheran Church

Winter produce from Milk & Honey Farmstead available for Link Match at a Winter Farmers Market.

## 2017 IMPACT



### MIGRATION & ME

**1,129** nature outing attendees volunteered  
**4,516** hours restoring native habitat  
**126%** increase in volunteer hours from 2016

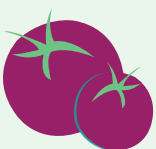


### WINTER FARMERS MARKETS

**17** markets, **3,776** attendees,  
**\$53,113** gross sales  
 for **34** different vendors



**\$1,353** in Link Sales  
**22%** increase from 2016



### "CONGREGATION SUPPORTED" AGRICULTURE (CSA) FARMS

**4** farms, **151,116** pounds of food harvested, **31,272** pounds donated back to the community



Members of Amor de Dios United Methodist Church and Kimball Avenue Church learn about maple trees at the North Park Village Nature Center in Chicago as part of the Migration & Me Program.



“

Our efforts were to help protect not just the water from pollution, but the wildlife that resides in the Great Lakes, who are threatened by the trash and plastics that infiltrate their habitat. Learning about the deep impact water has on our lives as human beings challenged the whole group to rethink how important water conservation should be to us.”

- Sydney Guillory, student leader in the Eco-Ambassadors program

## WATER PRESERVATION

Twelve student participants in our Eco-Ambassadors youth program spent six weeks during the summer learning about environmental topics and career paths and doing service learning projects to care for the Earth. The Eco-Ambassadors learned about a wide range of issues, including water preservation, through activities and field trips.



The students toured the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District to learn about environmental science careers and how our water use affects the health of the people and ecosystems around us.



Rain Barrels Deployed and/or Re-Deployed



Rain water diverted from the combined sewer systems from rain gardens installed at 5 houses of worship in 2016 and rain barrels.

# 2017 IMPACT

One of the Eco-Ambassadors' many projects was an afternoon spent picking up 45 pounds of litter from a beach on Lake Michigan.











People of faith from Lake County advocate for climate justice and solar jobs outside the State Capitol building on Advocacy Day 2017.

# IN 2017



**1,229**  
petitions delivered  
to state legislators

**120**

people attended  
Advocacy Day in Springfield

**20**

people traveled  
to Washington, DC for the  
People's Climate March



## ADVOCACY

At our annual Advocacy Day to the State Capitol in 2017, people of faith educated their legislators about the importance of creating clean energy jobs. They connected the issues of economic opportunity, job creation, violence prevention, and addressing climate change for environmental justice.

Thanks to the efforts of everyone who voiced their concern for environmental justice from a perspective of faith, funding for important solar development and job training programs created by the Future Energy Jobs Act was maintained.

Advocacy Day participants also met with State Treasurer Michael Frerichs to voice their support for the Nonprofit Green Lending Program.

“

**You can wake up in the morning and look at everything that's wrong with the world and want to crawl back into bed. Or you can wake up and think about the things that you have the power to change, listen, find partners, and create solutions to make a difference.”**

- State Treasurer Michael Frerichs



# GREEN TEAMS

These dedicated groups of people meet regularly to plan and implement sustainability initiatives at their houses of worship. The 111 Green Teams are the key to growing healthier communities across the state.

Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Congregation	North Shore Unitarian Church
Ascension Catholic Church	Old St. Patrick's Church
Baha'i Center of Champaign-Urbana	Old State Road Christian Church
Bethany Lutheran Church	Our Lady of the Snows Parish
Bethel Lutheran Church	Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
Beverly Unitarian Church	Parroquia Luterana Sagrado Corazón Church
Broadway Presbyterian Church	Plainfield United Methodist Church
Calvary Episcopal Church	Power Circle Congregation
Calvin Christian Reformed Church	Prairie Avenue Christian Church
Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship	Prairie Circle Unitarian Universalist Congregation
Chicago Community Mennonite Church	Prince of Peace United Methodist Church
Chicago Sinai Congregation	Resurrection Lutheran Church
Chicago Theological Seminary	Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church
Christ Episcopal Church, Waukegan	Salem Baptist Church
Church of Our Savior Episcopal	Second Presbyterian Church of Chicago
Church of the Good Shepherd	Sinai Temple of Champaign
Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist	Sisters of St. Benedict at St. Mary Monastery
Covenant United Church of Christ	Sixth Grace Presbyterian Church
Destiny Church	St. Benedict the African Catholic Church
Douglas Avenue United Methodist Church	St. Chrysostom's Episcopal Church
Edwards Congregational United Church of Christ	St. Clare Friary
Effingham Centenary United Methodist Church	St. Clare of Montefalco Parish
Ellis Avenue Baptist Church	St. James Parish
Euclid Avenue United Methodist Church	St. John Lutheran Church
First Baptist Church of Waukegan	St. John's Episcopal Church
First Christian Church, Carbondale	St. Joseph Catholic Church
First Congregational Church of Western Springs	St. Luke Union Church
First Mennonite Church of Urbana-Champaign	St. Mark's Episcopal Church
First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights	St. Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Parish
First Presbyterian Church of La Grange	St. Matthew Lutheran Church
First Presbyterian Church of Urbana	St. Nicholas Roman Catholic Church
First Presbyterian Church, Champaign	St. Patrick's Church
First Presbyterian Church, Charleston	St. Paul of the Cross School
First Presbyterian Church, Monticello	St. Paul's Lutheran Church
First Presbyterian Church, Normal	St. Simon's Episcopal Church
First Presbyterian Church, Shelbyville	Stone Temple Missionary Baptist Church
First United Methodist Church of Arlington Heights	Temple Shalom
First United Methodist Church of Park Ridge	Trinity Lutheran Church
First United Methodist Church of Waukegan	Trinity United Church of Christ
First United Methodist Church, Normal	Unitarian Church of Evanston
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Oak Park	Unitarian Church of Hinsdale
Grace Lutheran Church, Champaign	Unitarian Society of Geneva
Grace Lutheran Church, Evanston	Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington-Normal
Grace Lutheran Church, River Forest	Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin
Greater St. Paul AME Church	Unitarian Universalist Church of Urbana-Champaign
Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Bloomington	Unitarian Universalist Church, Rockford
Iglesia Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe	Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Decatur
Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation	Unity Temple Unitarian Universalist Congregation
KAM Isaiah Israel	University of Chicago Divinity School
Latin Pentecostal Church of God	Urbana-Champaign Friends Meeting
Lutheran Church of Mahomet	Vernon Park Church of God
Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago	Waukegan Hispanic Seventh-day Adventist Church
McKinley Presbyterian Church	Wellington Avenue United Church of Christ
Most Blessed Trinity Parish	Wesley United Methodist Church, Naperville
Neoga Grace United Methodist Church	Wesley United Methodist Church, Urbana
New Deliverance Presbyterian Church	

- Initiate or join a Green Team at your faith community
- Volunteer your time with Faith in Place at one of our offices or events
- Join our leadership and inspire others to support Faith in Place as part of our Founders or Fellowship Circles, as an Event Chair, or as a Committee member
- Become a Faithful Citizen and engage in our advocacy efforts

For more information, contact Veronica Kyle  
veronica@faithinplace.org | 312-733-4640 Ext. 114

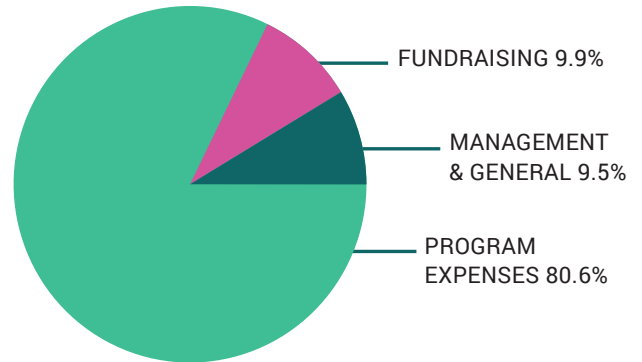
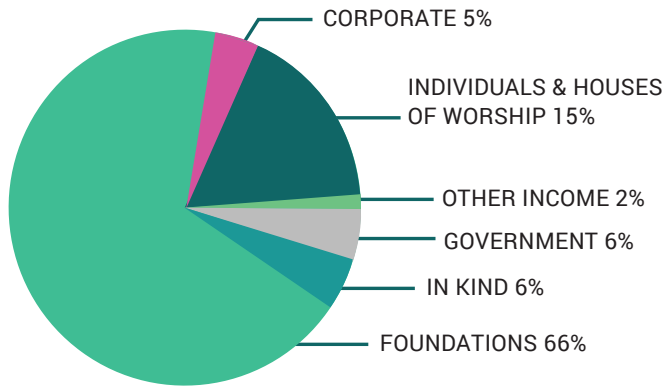
# GET INVOLVED



# 2017 AUDITED FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2017 REVENUE: \$1,258,621

2017 FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES: \$1,186,297



Members of the Eco-Ambassadors youth program go for a Nature Walk at Camp Sullivan in Oak Forest, IL.

# THANK YOU TO OUR 2017 SUPPORTERS

## FOUNDERS CIRCLE

These generous donors, marked with an asterisk (\*), have made a 5-year commitment of donating \$1,000 or more per year to Faith in Place.

## FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE

Members of the Fellowship Circle have supported Faith in Place with gifts of \$500 or more in the past year.

## GREATER THAN \$100,000

Energy Foundation  
ISEIF (Illinois Science & Energy Innovation Foundation)  
The Joyce Foundation

## \$30,000 - \$99,999

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## \$10,000 - \$29,999

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The Regeneration Project/Interfaith Power & Light  
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# JOIN US

## FOR THE 2018 GREEN TEAM SUMMIT

**Saturday, September 22, 2018 | The Field Museum, Chicago, IL**

This exciting event will connect hundreds of people of diverse faiths from neighborhoods across Chicago and cities across Illinois with one another and with resources for taking action for the environment and people in our communities.

Please plan to join us! To register, visit [www.faithinplace.org/get-involved/green-team-summit](http://www.faithinplace.org/get-involved/green-team-summit)

To become a sponsor, please contact Ramont Bell at [ramont@faithinplace.org](mailto:ramont@faithinplace.org) or 312-733-4640 Ext 120.



**Chicago Office** 70 E. Lake St., Suite 920, Chicago, IL 60601 | 312.733.4640  
**Central IL Office** 1001 S. Wright St., Suite 220, Champaign, IL 61820 | 217.493.5046  
**Lake County Office** 410 Grand Ave, Waukegan, IL 60085 | 502.395.8683  
**North & West Suburbs Office** 414 S. Vermont Street, Office #1, Palatine, IL 60067 | 847.280.1130

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[www.faithinplace.org](http://www.faithinplace.org)

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