

GROWING
HEALTHIER
COMMUNITIES

2016 ANNUAL REPORT



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.

Dear Faithful Supporters,

Inspiration. Innovation. Impact.

These lead to healthier communities when people of all faiths are empowered to care for the Earth.

A person with a criminal record obtains a job installing solar panels. A graduate of the foster care system designs and builds a rain garden at a local church. A young person gets outdoors, learns about the migration journey of the monarch butterfly, and is inspired to pursue a career in environmental science. Two faith communities, as different as can be, come together to share a garden.

These are stories of empowerment – people of faith leading the environmental movement. Faith in Place's team is connecting the dots between poverty, violence, air pollution, basement flooding, and access to local food and open space. Faith in Place's Green Teams are empowered to take meaningful action together on behalf of our common home and future generations.

Enclosed are just a few of the impactful stories from our work in 2016. They are testimonies made possible by your support of Faith in Place. These are stories of connection with place, sometimes marching in the streets, other times holding a prayer vigil, and at all times committed to transforming the community towards health.

2016 was the year that Faith in Place hosted our first annual Green Team Summit, bringing together our 79 Green Teams and 400 people from across the state to share, learn, inspire, and take action together. It was the year of the Future Energy Jobs Act, when people of faith all across Illinois asked, *'Why can't we curb climate change while reducing recidivism rates?'* As a result, 2,000 full-time jobs for persons with records and graduates of the foster care system will be created in the clean energy economy by 2030.

Last year we saw the power of organizing local faith-inspired action for healthier communities.

Your support means everything for this sacred work. Together, we are empowering people of faith to lead the environmental movement, and the resulting impact is staggering. These connections bring hope. Thank you for being a part of it, and thank you for helping us grow our impact.

Sincerely,



Rev. Brian J. Sauder
Executive Director
Faith in Place



Dr. Ashlynn Stillwell
Board Chair
Faith in Place

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Faith in Place is The Illinois Affiliate of Interfaith Power & Light



ENERGY & CLIMATE CHANGE

On a cold and dark January evening in 2016 – when sunlight seemed so far from reach – a dozen people gathered around a table at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Champaign-Urbana (UUCUC), dreaming of how they could harness the sun’s warming rays to power their buildings and take better care of the Earth.

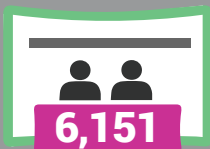
At this meeting organized by Faith in Place, representatives from seven houses of worship in the area had the opportunity to ask a solar developer questions. Equipped with knowledge and inspired by their faiths, three houses of worship made solar power a reality. Solar panels are up and running at the UUCUC as of March 2017.

“The Seventh Principle of Unitarianism is that we respect the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. For us, installing solar was an obvious thing to do, and we fundraised in just 6 weeks to make it happen!” - Andy Robinson, Green Team Chair at UUCUC

Installation was completed at the Universalist Unitarian Church of Peoria in April 2017 and will be finished at the McKinley Foundation, a Presbyterian Church (USA) Campus Ministry, by mid-June.

“After completing energy efficiency upgrades to our church building, we wanted to take the next step to reduce our church’s carbon emissions and create a positive impact in our community,” reflected Rick Grawey, Ministerial Assistant, Universalist Unitarian Church of Peoria.

2016 IMPACT

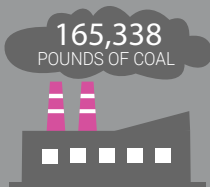


Individuals educated on smart energy



Faith partners completed an energy audit

214 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions reduced or the equivalent of



“Faith in Place was the catalyst for making solar possible for us. Our solar panels provide a clean source of power, save money, and serve as a public witness of our commitment to care for the Earth,” said Kathleen Robbins, who recently retired from the McKinley Foundation.

In total, 65 cubic tons of carbon emissions will be reduced each year, all because of the interest sparked at this meeting and the connections Faith in Place provided for people of faith to pursue clean energy at their houses of worship!

SUSTAINABLE FOOD & LAND USE

At a time when divisions run deep in our country, something as simple as planting a butterfly garden together, while sharing stories, brings hope.

Members of Hope Presbyterian Church in Wheaton invited Veronica Kyle, Faith in Place's Chicago Outreach Director, to speak at the church. As part of our Migration & Me program, Veronica connected her family's move from Alabama to Chicago in search of a better life to the migration of the monarch butterfly.

Just as we need food, shelter, and a place to feel welcome when we move, monarch butterflies – important pollinators – need the habitat provided only by native milkweed plants, which have been in sharp decline in recent years. Veronica encouraged them to plant a native plant garden, and provided the milkweed seeds for church members to get started.

The conversation was still on their minds when a 15-year-old Boy Scout, Doug Nuttall, contacted Hope Presbyterian about the possibility of completing an Eagle Scout project to benefit the church. He connected with Jim Vroman, a Faith in Place supporter and Hope Presbyterian member, who suggested Doug help the church achieve its dream of planting a monarch butterfly garden.



With the assistance of over 20 volunteers, the garden was planted in July 2016 and dedicated at the Annual Diversity Picnic Hope Wheaton hosts each August with their partner congregation, Hope Presbyterian Church of Chicago's Englewood neighborhood.

Members and representatives from the Turkish-American Society, the Sikh community, Bethel New Life Church, and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints of Naperville joined in to celebrate the dedication of the Monarch Butterfly Waystation. All who attended the picnic, though they came from different backgrounds and diverse cultures, shared a migration experience and the blessings of arriving at a welcoming and nurturing destination.

“What a great celebration it turned out to be! We honored the migration stories of all who attended, as well as the migration story of the monarch butterfly. We are so thankful for the inspiration we received from Veronica when she shared her migration experience with us.” - Jim Vroman, Hope Presbyterian Church

The seeds the church planted in the ground and in the community welcome people and butterflies alike, and relationships are healthier because of these connections.

2016 IMPACT



Granted funds to **9** houses of worship to expand vegetable gardens

Empowered **15** houses of worship to start native plant gardens with starter plants and workshops



Hosted **16** Winter Farmers Markets with 3 in food scarce neighborhoods. Link sales increased **70%** from 2015



Nature Outings organized with more than **2,000** volunteer hours completed

WATER PRESERVATION

In 2016, Faith in Place launched an innovative initiative to help five houses of worship in high flood risk regions of Chicago install rain gardens on their properties and distribute rain barrels to nearby homeowners to reduce flooding.

Advocate United Church of Christ was enthusiastic about starting conversations with members of their congregation and neighbors about being green.

Faith in Place shared the many advantages of rain gardens with the houses of worship. Not only do the gardens help reduce flooding and improve water quality by allowing rain water to filter slowly through the ground instead of rushing across paved surfaces, they also save money and improve health by decreasing basement flooding and mold. The native plants restore natural habitat, and the gardens offer beauty to neighborhoods.

Rain garden installations also provide economic opportunity. Faith in Place partnered with local landscape companies to encourage them to hire local residents from the neighborhoods, and worked with companies that hire and train persons with records.

"My Christian faith speaks of forgiveness and mercy, and I was glad we could help provide jobs and training through the opportunity to work on our rain garden. It has drawn a lot of people who are curious about what it is and what it does," said Pastor Malcolm Griffith of Advocate United Church of Christ.



"I feel like I'm giving something back to the community. Every day, people that live in the neighborhood would come by and say, 'What a beautiful job you guys are doing!' I've learned so much through this experience about the environment and how to address the flooding issues in Chicago. I'm proud to continue working as an Environmental Remediation Specialist." - Shawn Smith, who installed the rain garden at Advocate United Church of Christ



The Eco-Ambassadors – Faith in Place's summer youth program participants – eagerly joined in the efforts. During the water portion of the 6-week environmental education program, they learned how to install rain barrels and created community art projects by decorating some of the barrels (pictured on cover).

We are proud that the five rain gardens – plus the 576 rain barrels that Faith in Place helped distribute last summer to homeowners in the neighborhood surrounding each garden – are positively impacting communities by diverting 1.6 million gallons out of Chicago stormwater sewers every year.



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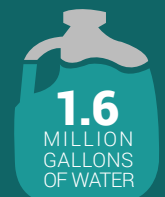
2016 IMPACT

Rain gardens planted at houses of worship



576

Rain barrels distributed



1.6

MILLION GALLONS OF WATER

diverted from sewer systems



ADVOCACY

Our advocacy work empowers people of faith to take action on the issues that are most pressing to the health of their communities. In 2016 we were busy coordinating clergy visits with legislators, holding workshops to educate people about the legislative process, and mobilizing participation in rallies for our common home.

A coal plant located near a predominately Latino and African-American neighborhood in Waukegan is an advocacy priority for Faith in Place. It is one of the worst environmental justice-offending coal plants in the country.¹ However, if the plant were to be shut down, residents and legislators are concerned about decreased tax revenues and potential job losses.

"I worry about the coal plant because of climate change, and because 1 in 3 children in our community suffer from asthma and respiratory illnesses.² We need clean air," said Julio Guzman, who was born and raised in Waukegan.

Faith in Place is working with houses of worship, fellow environmental activists, and local elected officials in Lake County to advocate for a just transition to retire the coal power plant and replace it with clean energy jobs.

Susana Figueroa, Faith in Place's Lake County Outreach Director, is leading the charge. Using her bilingual language skills, she often relates peoples' faith with the moral dimensions of environmental issues and connects with their languages and cultures to make Earth care relevant.

In 2016, Susana joined a coalition of organizations to represent Waukegan faith communities at a shareholder meeting in Philadelphia for the company that owns the coal plant. "The CEO of the company wasn't paying attention as our team members were presenting their concerns," Susana remembers.

2016 IMPACT



6 Faithful Citizen Workshops hosted at **6** different faith partners

200+

people of faith traveled to our State Capitol in Springfield



Delivered more than
2,800
petitions to legislators on clean energy jobs

"Rev. Eileen Shanley-Roberts, Rector at Christ Episcopal Church of Waukegan, and I started speaking from a faith perspective, about how we are responsible for God's creation and for caring for our neighbors. Only then did the chairperson and shareholders start listening. I switched to Spanish to address the CEO – also a Spanish speaker. He perked up his head and agreed to travel to Waukegan to meet with community leaders."

- Susana Figueroa, Lake County Outreach Director

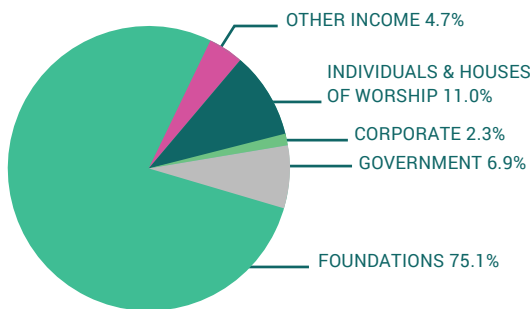
As a result of the meeting, the CEO visited Waukegan, and met with local leaders. We are still working towards transitioning the plant – and we are excited to continue partnering with faith communities to call for renewable energy jobs and clean air for the community.

¹ NAACP, Indigenous Environmental Network, LVEJO, Coal Blooded: Putting Profits Before People <http://www.naacp.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/CoalBlooded.pdf>

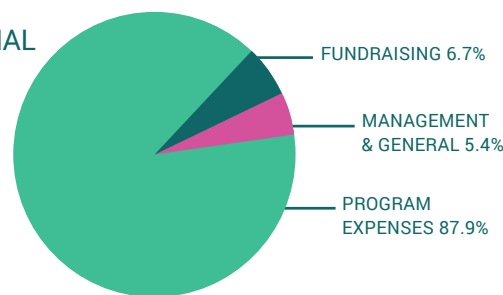
² Mobile C.A.R.E. Foundation, An Assessment of Pediatric Asthma in Northern Lake County, Illinois, 2012

2016 AUDITED FINANCIAL SUMMARY

**2016
REVENUE:**
\$1,282,863



**2016 FUNCTIONAL
EXPENSES:**
\$1,182,899



2016 Founders Circle & Fellowship Circle Members

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

Chi-Cal Rivers Fund
Energy Foundation
Illinois Science & Energy Innovation Fund
The Joyce Foundation

\$30,000 – \$99,999

Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation
Grand Victoria Foundation
Illinois Department of Natural Resources' Coastal Management Program and the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
RE-AMP
US Forest Service

\$10,000 – \$29,999

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The Nature Conservancy
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\$5,000 – \$9,999

James Cavallo
Chicago Mennonite Learning Center
Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist, Palatine

\$1,000 – \$4,999

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St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Urbana*
Unity Temple Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Oak Park
Rev. Booker Steven Vance*
James Vroman*
Rev. Dr. Barbara Wilson*
Yale Forum on Religion and Society
William Ysaguirre*
Karen & Rabbi Michael Zedek*

\$500 - \$999

Alliance for the Great Lakes
Anonymous (2)
Band of Farmers
Chicago Sinai Congregation
Chicago Theological Seminary
Delta Institute
DePaul University
Erika Dornfeld
First Mennonite Church of Urbana-Champaign
The Forest Preserve District of Cook County
Frank Fletcher
Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
Glenview United Methodist Church
Marguerite Griffin
Hawk Energy Solutions
Emily Laugesen
Karen J. Lewis
Dan Lloyd
McCormick Theological Seminary
Mom's Clean Air Force
Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance
New Prairie Construction
Openlands
Parachin Design Studios
Philo Presbyterian Church
Prairie Circle Unitarian Universalist Church, Grayslake
Rachel Reed & Andrew Klein
Henrietta Saunders & Richard Day
Debra Shore
St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Glen Ellyn
Barbara Stockton
StraightUp Solar
The Strategy Group, Inc.
Debra & Thomas Sutter
The University of Minnesota Monarch Lab
Betty Waller
Wesley United Methodist Church, Urbana



SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 2017 GREEN TEAM SUMMIT

Sunday, October 15, 2017
The Field Museum, Chicago, IL

Join hundreds of people from neighborhoods across Chicago and cities across Illinois for an action-packed day of learning, connecting, and networking about environmental issues.

For more information, visit www.faithinplace.org/events/2017-green-team-summit

To become a sponsor, please contact Ramont Bell at ramont@faithinplace.org or 312-733-4640 Ext. 120

Green Teams

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

Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Springfield
Ascension Catholic Church, Oak Park
Baha'i Center of Champaign-Urbana
Bethany Lutheran Church, Crystal Lake
Bethel Lutheran Church, Chicago
Beverly Unitarian Church, Chicago
Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship
Chicago Community Mennonite Church
Chicago Sinai Congregation
Chicago Theological Seminary
Christ Church Lake Forest
Christ Episcopal Church, Waukegan
Church of Our Savior Episcopal, Chicago
Church of the Three Crosses, Chicago
Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist, Palatine
Covenant United Church of Christ, South Holland
Effingham Centenary United Methodist Church
Ellis Avenue Baptist Church, Chicago
Euclid Avenue United Methodist Church, Oak Park
First Baptist Church of Waukegan
First Congregational Church of Western Springs
First Mennonite Church of Urbana-Champaign
First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights
First Presbyterian Church of La Grange
First Presbyterian Church of Libertyville
First Presbyterian Church, Champaign
First Presbyterian Church, Monticello

First Presbyterian Church, Normal
First Presbyterian Church, Urbana
First United Methodist Church of Arlington Heights
First United Methodist Church of Park Ridge
First United Methodist Church of Waukegan
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Oak Park
Grace Lutheran Church, Champaign
Holy Trinity Parish, Bloomington
Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation, Evanston
KAM Isaiah Israel, Chicago
Lutheran Church of Mahomet
Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago
McKinley Presbyterian Church, Champaign
Most Blessed Trinity Parish, Waukegan
Normal First United Methodist Church
North Shore Unitarian Church, Deerfield
Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe Church, Waukegan
Old St. Patrick's Church, Chicago
Our Lady of Charity Parish, Cicero
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Arlington Heights
Parroquia Luterana Sagrado Corazón Church, Waukegan
Plainfield United Methodist Church
Prairie Circle Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Grayslake
Prince of Peace United Methodist Church, Elk Grove Village
Resurrection Lutheran Church, Bloomington
Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church
Sixth-Grace Presbyterian Church, Chicago

St. Benedict the African Catholic Church, Chicago
St. John's Episcopal Church, Chicago
St. Luke Union Church, Bloomington
St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Glen Ellyn
St. Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Parish, Mundelein
St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Urbana
St. Patrick's Church, Urbana
St. Paul of the Cross School, Park Ridge
St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Evanston
Stone Temple Missionary Baptist Church, Chicago
Temple Shalom, Chicago
Trinity Lutheran Church, Harvel
Trinity United Church of Christ, Chicago
Unitarian Church of Hinsdale
Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington-Normal
Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin
Unitarian Universalist Church, Rockford
Unitarian Universalist Church of Urbana-Champaign
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Decatur
Unity Temple Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Oak Park
Urbana-Champaign Friends Meeting
Vernon Park Church of God, Lynwood
Wellington Avenue United Church of Christ, Chicago
Wesley United Methodist Church, Naperville
Wesley United Methodist Church, Urbana

GET INVOLVED

- 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, please contact Sarah Bennett at sarah@faithinplace.org or 312-733-4640 Ext. 118

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CONNECT WITH US!



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