

"One of the best experiences of my life"

Dear Friends,

This is a challenging time for all of us as coronavirus (COVID-19) affects our collective communities. Pain from the loss of health and loved ones, economic instability, and lack of physical community is a constant presence. As people of faith and conscience, we believe we are inextricably connected to the well-being of each other, and we are particularly bound together with those of us suffering at this time.

As the COVID-19 pandemic expanded in March, Faith in Place swiftly assessed how to mobilize our outreach team and serve our 358 Faith Partners and 140 Green Teams across Illinois, as they in turn serve their communities. We moved our in-person outreach meetings to digital platforms, hosted weekly webinars on advocacy, and developed a COVID-19 online resource bank. We connected and continue to bring together Green Teams to share best practices for meeting the needs of our communities through social media and video conferencing tools.

We know our faith communities are uniquely positioned to respond to the immediacy of this crisis while also advocating for long-term solutions that prioritize our most vulnerable neighbors. Our faith communities are leading the way, and Faith in Place continues to work overtime to make sure they are equipped to educate, connect, advocate, and build healthier communities.

Our ability to quickly and resiliently respond to this crisis is thanks to your generous support. Your faithful giving and volunteering is the foundation upon which we navigate and lead during this time of great challenge. As you will see in the enclosed report, in 2019 over 600 individuals and families along with more than 50 Houses of Worship donated to Faith in Place. In addition, over 200 volunteers supported us throughout the year. Your support greatly advanced our mission in 2019 and allows us to serve our faith communities now.

"Participating in the Eco-Ambassador Youth Program was one of the best experiences of my life. I feel hopeful and empowered to care for our Earth. I have always had an interest in conservation efforts but was never sure of the right way to learn about them. The Eco-Ambassador Program helped answer how humans are impacting Earth's natural cycles and what we can do to protect the planet."
—Jake, 2019
Eco-Ambassador



As we continue to adapt and strategize innovative ways to support our faith communities, we are also looking strategically at the coming months. Despite the uncertainty around the duration of COVID-19 and our commitment to follow physical distancing best practices, **Faith in Place is dedicated to empowering youth through our annual Eco-Ambassadors summer program, even if it needs to become a virtual online experience.**



Faith in Place's Eco-Ambassador Youth Program educates young people (14-18 years of age) and deepens their knowledge and awareness about the environment and climate change. This summer program increases their leadership skills to promote environmental stewardship and justice in their schools, Houses of Worship, and communities. Through individual research projects, team building, public presentations, educational field trips, nature outings, habitat restoration, and camping, Eco-Ambassadors are empowered to lead on environmental solutions.

As an organization we must not only respond nimbly to current challenges, but also prepare for the future – **and the youth are the future.** Youth have drawn the world's attention to the climate crisis in ways that decades of scientific studies have not. Faith in Place's Eco-Ambassador Youth Program is an opportunity to grow this movement of leaders by supporting youth right here in Illinois. Education is one of the most important factors in preventing environmental problems. Because of this, we are dedicated to offering our Eco-Ambassadors program whether it takes place in person or virtually due to the uncertainty of COVID-19.

But we need your help. The cost of the Eco-Ambassador summer leadership experience is \$2,779 per student. Our goal is to support 27 students across four regions in Illinois. The Eco-Ambassador Youth Program has been running for over 10 years in Chicago and has also taken place in Lake County and the North & West Suburbs of Chicago in past years. This year we are expanding the program to Central Illinois as well.

If you are able to donate at this time, any amount will help us engage teenagers from marginalized communities across Illinois. We hope you will support our youth leaders by sending a donation in the enclosed envelope or by donating at www.faithinplace.org/donate

Thank you for your consideration. We are wishing you, your loved ones, and colleagues strength and good health as we all navigate these challenging times together. Please feel free to reach out to us or the Faith in Place team at any time. Thank you, again, for your support.

REV. BRIAN J. SAUDER

President & Executive Director

KAREN J. LEWIS

Board Chair

"I learned how people are and will be affected by climate change. I also learned that it is people in some of the poorest places on earth that are affected the most by climate change. This made me feel driven to help find solutions to combat climate change. Faith in Place's Eco-Ambassador Program has helped grow my passion for environmental justice and to combat climate change. Striving for environmental justice is something I want to continue to fight for throughout my life.
- Mia, 2019 Eco-Ambassador

P.S. In honor of the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day on April 22nd, we hope you'll celebrate with us in supporting our planet by investing in our youth and our Eco-Ambassador Youth Program. Thank you!

2019 *FAITH IN PLACE* ANNUAL REPORT





VISION

Diverse people of all faiths sharing the commitment to care for the Earth.

MISSION

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.

We believe that when people of faith lead the environmental movement, it is a movement focused on justice and care for our common environment. We operate from local offices serving Chicago, the North and West Suburbs of Chicago, Lake County, Central Illinois, and Southern Illinois.

We implement our five program areas – Energy & Climate, Sustainable Food & Land Use, Water Preservation, Advocacy, and Youth Leadership & Empowerment – in close collaboration with our 358 faith partners and 140 Green Teams. Our faith partners and Green Teams located throughout Illinois represent diverse religious traditions.

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“Faith in Place's Migration & Me Program has brought me closer to others and the needs of our communities. It helps me meet new people and learn their stories while introducing them to local nature and forest preserves. This has brought both them and me much joy.”

-PRINCESS HARRIS

Sustainable Food and Land Use Coordinator



2019 PROGRAM

Energy & Climate Change

Through energy audits, community outreach, and solar panel installations, Faith in Place addressed climate change in 2019 by empowering Illinois residents to reduce their dependence on fossil fuels. This created the following savings in 2019:

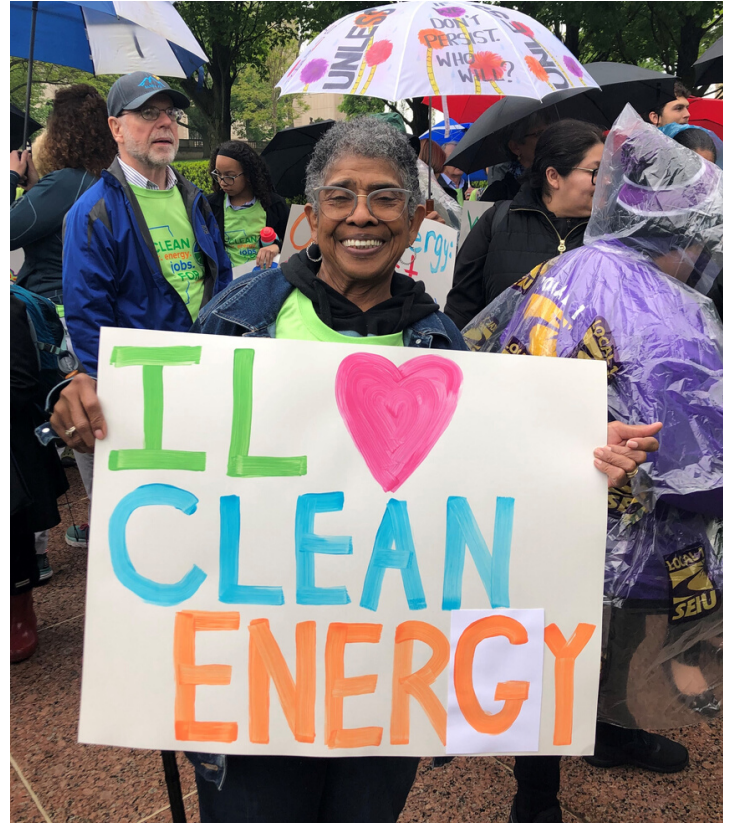
Kilowatt

Hours Saved through:

- 55,014 Energy Efficiency Programs
- 461,774 House of Worship Solar Programs

This is equivalent to saving:

- 365 Metric Tons of Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- 402,611 Pounds of Coal Burned



Advocacy

In 2019, Faith in Place empowered people of faith to advocate for clean energy and against coal ash and ethylene oxide pollution. Advocacy efforts led to the following accomplishments in 2019:

- 2,100 Petitions Delivered to Legislators
- 1,200 Faithful Citizens Traveling to Springfield, Illinois for Advocacy Days
- 14 Faithful Citizen Workshops
- 271 People Trained as Environmental Justice Advocates

IMPACTS

Water Preservation

Water preservation efforts prevent flooding, damage to buildings, and mold growth, which can negatively impact community health. In 2019, Faith in Place achieved the following impacts related to water preservation:

- 901,222** Gallons of Rain Water Diverted from Combined Sewer Systems to Prevent Basement Flooding
- 23,680** Gallons of Green Infrastructure Storage Capacity Added
- 127** Rain Barrels Deployed and/or Re-Deployed

Youth

Each summer, Faith in Place welcomes high school youth to our Summer Eco-Ambassador Youth program. This experiential learning program connects youth to environmental education as well as leadership and career opportunities. In 2019, outcomes from this program were the following:

- 16** Youth, Aged 14-17, Participated in the Summer Youth Program
- 95%** Of Students Completed and Graduated from the Program
- 75%** Average Percent Increase Reported per Student on their Professional Development

Sustainable Food & Land Use

Faith in Place's Indoor Winter Farmers Market Program and Migration & Me Program connect communities with the Earth and their neighbors. In 2019, these programs accomplished the following:

- 254,760** Pounds of Food Harvested from 4 Congregation-Supported Agriculture (CSA) Farms
- 63,800** Pounds of CSA Produce Donated to Charity
- 788** People Attended Nature Outings
- 3,060** People Attended Indoor Winter Farmers Markets
- \$ 54,774** Winter Farmers Market Sales Revenue for Local Vendors

"I learned that through nature, there are so many things to learn. I could take away the feeling of being open and being able to explore many things that I have not explored before. The connections that were made [through the Eco-Ambassadors program] caused us to be openminded, which ultimately made a difference."

-Khalil, 2019 EcoAmbassador



Chicago area Eco-Ambassadors enjoy a nature outing with Princess Harris during their 6-week summer program.

LOOKING BACK

2019 GREEN TEAM SUMMIT



Xochitl-Quetzal Danza Azteca dancers performed at the Green Team Summit's plenary session.

23 volunteers

donated over 150 hours of their time to help make the day a success.

22 exhibitors

sponsored the Summit. From schools of theology to nature preserves and radio shows, the range of exhibitors demonstrated how environmental care can be incorporated into diverse areas of study and business.

10 workshops

were conducted on the following topics: advocacy, reducing waste, climate migration and resilience, Green Teams, food justice, outdoor worship, and youth empowerment.

On September 14th, over 600 people of faith convened at the Field Museum in Chicago for the 4th Annual Green Team Summit. Connections were made across religious, geographic, race, ethnic, and language divides to learn from each other's challenges and successes as Green Teams.

Rev. Dr. Clare Butterfield, Faith in Place's co-founder, looked back at Faith in Place's 20 years of growth during the keynote address. She called us to a vision of advocacy rooted in love and compassion for the communities most affected by environmental crises.

“

The searing love we hold for each other is a way of living as if... we were kin. And of course we must love each other.

-Rev. Dr. Clare Butterfield



Sen. Tammy Duckworth spoke at the Summit about her leadership as a founding member of the U.S. Senate's first Environmental Justice Caucus.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Stories from a year of education, connection, and advocacy.

ECO-AMBASSADOR YOUTH PROGRAM

In summer 2019, 16 youth from the Chicago region joined together to connect to the Earth and learn about advocacy and leadership.

During a day of habitat restoration last summer, Faith in Place Eco-Ambassadors removed invasive species, such as sweet white clover, from the woodlands and collected seeds from several rare prairie plants to replant later. The youth later shared that caring for the Earth, much like a restoration project, can seem like a hard task made easier when working together as community.



Our 2019 Chicago Eco-Ambassadors spent the summer growing their connection to the environment and learning about climate change.

ADVOCACY DAY

Twice in 2019, people of faith from across Illinois joined together to advocate for environmental justice at the Statehouse in Springfield.

In 2019, over 1,200 people of all ages across the state of Illinois, from the Wisconsin border to the hills of Southern Illinois, woke up early to catch buses to Springfield to advocate together for equitable clean energy policy. Empowered people of faith regularly interacting with elected officials builds momentum to advance climate crisis solutions.



Over 1,200 people traveled to the Statehouse in Springfield in the Spring and Fall of 2019 to advocate for just and clean energy.

MONARCH FESTIVAL

Faith in Place's Monarch Festival advanced love for each other and our common home by celebrating connections of migration between people and the monarch butterfly.

The Monarch Festival honored the stories of Latinx, African American, and Indigenous people through dance, story telling, and food. During the festival hosted at the historic South Shore Cultural Center in Chicago, attendees enjoyed the spirited percussion beats from young Aztec dancers, the smell of homemade tamales, and the sounds of powerful migration stories being shared across cultures.



Princess Harris, Sustainable Food and Land Use Coordinator, released monarch butterflies with curious onlookers at the 2019 Monarch Festival.

"Everything should be free to move about the world the way the monarch does. The monarch is not thinking about policy or border walls."

-Toni Anderson, Founder of the Sacred Keepers Sustainability Lab

CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY

GREEN TEAMS



The Chicago Muslims Green Team, based at the Downtown Islamic Center, championed sustainability for their community.



Dayspring Native American United Methodist Church Green Team teaches those of different heritages how to connect and respect the Earth.



Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship Green Team established itself last year and began advancing sustainability congregation wide.



First Presbyterian Church of Libertyville's members with CPLC members posing in front of the old Waukegan Coal Plant owned by NRG Energy during the driving tour in 2019.

*In 2019, **Faith in Place** partnered with over 140 Green Teams across Illinois to educate, connect, and advocate for a healthier and more just future. Here are a few highlights from these partnerships:*

Chicago's Downtown Islamic Center

Faith in Place's newest Board Member, Caroline Williams, founded and leads the Chicago Muslims Green Team based at the Downtown Islamic Center. Caroline started the Green Team after being inspired at the 2017 Green Team Summit. Last June, the Chicago Muslims Green Team hosted their first big event, a Zero Food Waste challenge, at an Iftar during Ramadan. They also are working toward supporting the Downtown Islamic Center to reduce waste and become more energy efficient.

Dayspring Native American United Methodist Church

Set on a wooded hill above the Illinois River, Dayspring is home to a unique and beautiful community of faith. Church members come from many different heritages, of both native and settler ancestry, and worship in ways that respect each other's traditions. In 2019, their Green Team completed a Smart Energy Mini Grant, which included energy conservation workshops and an Earth Dance where movement strengthened community resolve to protect our common home.

Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship

This Green Team was founded in the summer of 2019 and immediately started working on several initiatives. These included seeking their denomination's green accreditation program (Green Sanctuary), planning the installation of solar panels and planting a small native prairie, and educating their members on sustainable living and environmental justice. Their efforts and collaboration are a true inspiration for other Green Teams across the state!

First Presbyterian Church of Libertyville

One of 2019's Green Team Summit Award Recipients was First Presbyterian Church of Libertyville's Earth Care Team, established in 2005. The award celebrated their work at their church to promote Earth care through events, worship, and educational opportunities. In November of 2019, they visited Clean Power Lake County (CPLC) to learn how their team can work in solidarity with CPLC, an environmental justice grassroots group in Waukegan, IL.

DONOR CIRCLES

Founders Circle

The Founders Circle is made up of generous donors who make a 5-year commitment to support Faith in Place. Contributions made by Founders Circle members go toward Faith in Place's unrestricted operating funds to provide a stronger foundation and a stable future for expanding our programs.

Founders Circle members make a pledge at one of three generous giving levels:



Healthy Soil: a pledge to give \$1,000 per year for five years, or approximately \$83 a month. Donors who give at this level help our communities connect to the Earth through programs like Congregation-Supported Agriculture, nature outings, and habitat restoration.



Fresh Water: a pledge to give \$5,000 per year for five years. Donors who give at this level support communities with efforts like installing rain barrels, building rain gardens, and protecting our shared drinking water.



Clean Air: a pledge to give \$10,000 per year for five years. Donors who give at this level support Faith in Place's advocacy and education efforts to ensure just climate solutions are championed in order to create a safe and healthy future for all communities.



Founders Circle members Barbara Boockmeier and Steve Huels supported Faith in Place at Chicago's 2019 Annual Celebration and Fundraiser in December.

Why do you choose to generously support Faith in Place as a Founders Circle member?

"I believe deeply in the power of faith communities to change the world. I have experienced firsthand how Faith in Place equips communities of faith to engage with and act on issues of environmental and social justice.

Faith in Place empowers other organizations to work uniquely and collaboratively on behalf of the environment."

-Steve Huels, Founders Circle Member

Fellowship Circle

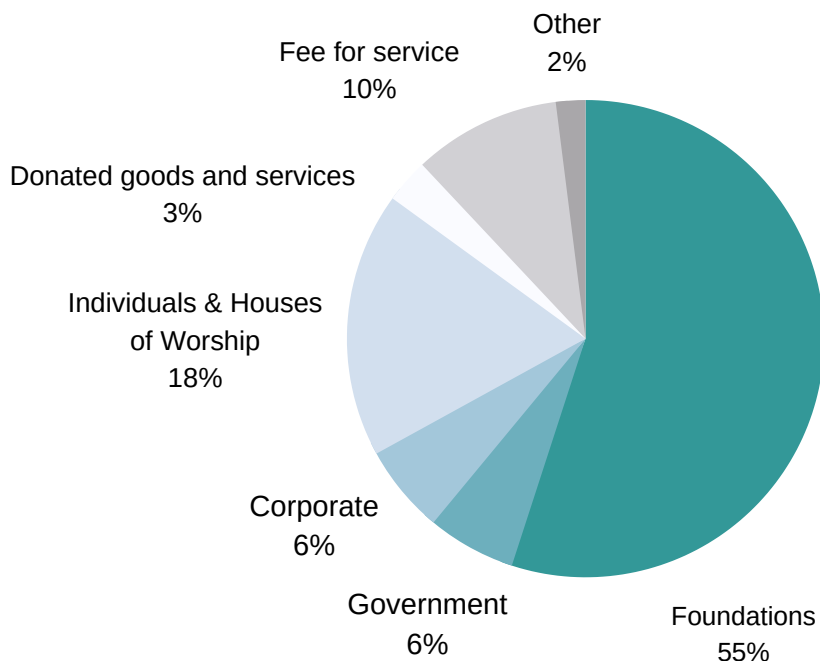
Members of the Fellowship Circle have supported Faith in Place with generous gifts of \$500 or more in the past year. This unique fellowship of diverse individuals of all faiths share a commitment to care for the Earth. Fellowship Circle contributions are critical to sustaining Faith in Place's work to educate, connect, and advocate for healthier communities.

Earth Champion

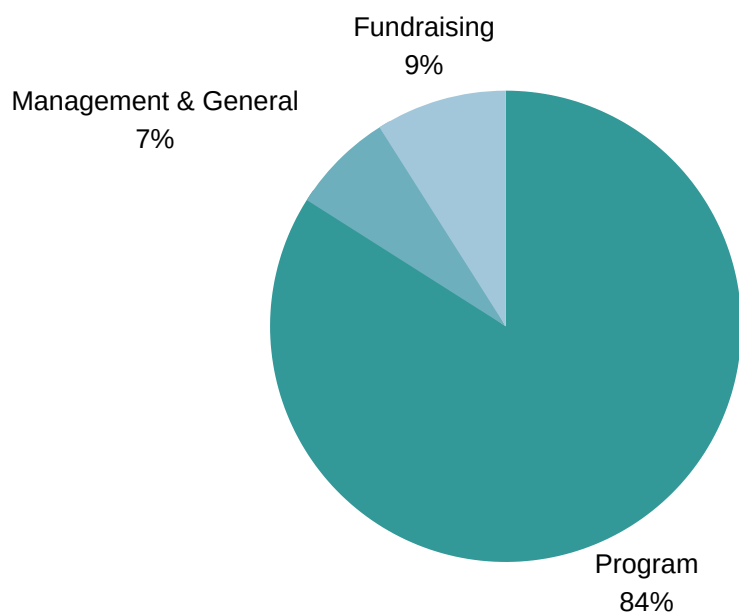
In 2019, Faith in Place launched Earth Champions, a new program to create a sustaining commitment between us and the Houses of Worship we serve. Faith in Place provides free resources and support to faith communities to help them advocate for the Earth. When a House of Worship gives back to Faith in Place with a gift of \$50 or more, we celebrate them as an Earth Champion with a signed certificate and placement on our website recognizing their support. We celebrated over 50 Earth Champions throughout Illinois in 2019.

If you would like to fund Faith in Place's mission in perpetuity, please consider leaving a bequest or estate gift in your will. Contact Rev. Brian Sauder for more details at brian@faithinplace.org or 217-649-1898.

2019 REVENUE: \$1,626,723



2019 EXPENSES: \$1,546,878



YEAR END NET ASSETS: \$1,122,425

Thanks to your support, 2019 was a year of positive financial growth for Faith in Place. We are deeply grateful to our donors who made possible our growing impact statewide.

*This financial report is prepared by our CPA but unaudited at the time of Annual Report printing.

WITH GRATITUDE

Our Foundations & Sponsors

Greater than \$100,000

Energy Foundation
Illinois Science & Energy Innovation Foundation
The Joyce Foundation

\$50,000-\$99,999

The Crown Family
Grand Victoria Foundation
Kalliopeia Foundation
Slipstream
Searle Funds at The Chicago Community Trust
USDA-AMS-TM-Farmers Market
and Local Food Promotion Program

\$25,000-\$49,999

ComEd
Gaylord And Dorothy Donnelley Foundation
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Illinois Environmental Council
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Safer Foundation
Sierra Club Foundation
The Lumpkin Family Foundation
U.S. Forest Service
Woods Fund of Chicago

\$1,000-\$9,999

Bobolink Foundation
Chicago Sunday Evening Club
Christopher Family Foundation
EarthShare
Elevate Energy
Environmental Law & Policy Center
Exelon Corporation
Experimental Station
Gaggero & Tully Real Estate

\$1,000-\$9,999 cont.

Garrett-Evangelical Seminary
Groundswell
Harold M. & Adeline S. Morrison Family Foundation
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McCormick Theological Seminary
Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light
Natural Resources Defense Council
Saturn Power Corporation
Shedd Aquarium
Sunrun
The Regeneration Project/Interfaith Power & Light
Union Of Concerned Scientists
North American Monarch Institute, University of Minnesota

\$500-\$999

A Perfect Promotion
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Blue Wave Solar
Carbon Solutions Group
Catholic Theological Union
Citizens Utility Board Consumer Education & Research Fund
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We Bridge Consulting, LLC
Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology

Our Foundations & Sponsors cont.

Less than \$499

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CiTTA Partnership
Moxie Solar
Prairie Rivers Network
S. Wolfe & Associates Inc.
Salsedo Press Inc.
Sardinia Inc.

Less than \$499 cont.

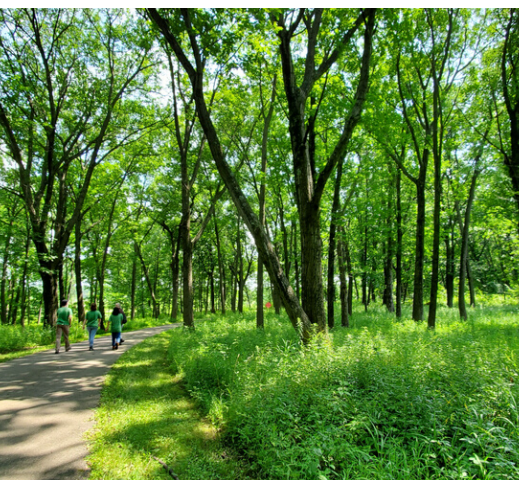
Schneider for Congress
Sierra Club Illinois Chapter
Terracycle US, LLC
Totten Law Office, LLC
Trajectory Energy Partners

Our Earth Champions

Earth Champions are Houses of Worship that give back to Faith in Place with a gift of \$50 or more (see page 8).

Ancient Dragon Zen Gate
Arcola Presbyterian Church USA
Carterville First United Methodist Church
Central Illinois Mosque And Islamic Center
Chicago Sinai Congregation
Congregation of Our Lady of the Retreat in the Cenacle
Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist
Covenant United Church of Christ
Emanuel Congregation, Chicago
First Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn
First Mennonite Church of Urbana-Champaign
First Presbyterian Church of Marion
First Presbyterian Church of Urbana
First Presbyterian Church, Champaign
First Presbyterian Church, Charleston
First Presbyterian Church, Mattoon
First Presbyterian Church, Normal
First Presbyterian Church, Shelbyville
First United Church of Oak Park
First United Methodist Church of Arlington Heights
Fourth Presbyterian Church
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Oak Park
Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church, Chicago
Grace Center Ministries
Jesus People USA Evangelical Covenant Church
Jubilee Farms United Church of Christ

Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church
McKinley Presbyterian Church
Mt. Vernon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
New Deliverance Presbyterian Church
North Shore Congregation Israel
North Shore Unitarian Church
Our Saviour's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Arlington Heights
Philo Presbyterian Church
Pilgrim Congregational Church, Oak Park
Prairie Circle Unitarian Universalist, Grayslake
Prince of Peace United Methodist Church
Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church
South Shore United Methodist Church
St. Andrew's Lutheran Campus Center
St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church
St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Glen Ellyn
The Well Spirituality Center at The Congregation of St. Joseph
Trinity United Church of Christ, Deerfield
Unitarian Church of Evanston
Unitarian Church of Hinsdale
United Methodist Women of Park Ridge
Unity Temple Unitarian Universalist Congregation
Vernon Park Church of God
Wellington Avenue United Church of Christ
Wesley United Methodist Church, Urbana



Our Founders Circle Members

The Founders Circle is made up of generous donors who support Faith in Place with a 5-year commitment at one of three generous giving levels, from \$1,000-\$10,000 per year (see page 8).

Anonymous	Karen and Bob Lewis
Marilyn Antonik	Margo and Greg Lykins
Elena and Andrew Bettis	Karen S. McKenzie
Barbara W. Boockmeier	Robert McKim
Rev. Dr. Clare Butterfield	Ronald E. Meissen, Ph.D.
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Jan and Dr. Earl Kellogg	

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The Fellowship Circle is made up of agenerous donors who have supported Faith in Place with gifts of \$500 or more in the past year (see page 8).

Greater than \$10,000

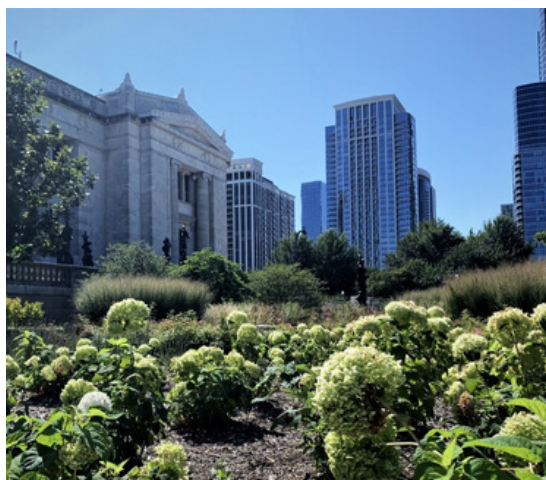
Rev. Amy Heinrich
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\$2,500-\$9,999

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Wendy Paulson
Henrietta Saunders and Richard Day

\$1,000-\$2,499

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Diane and Joseph Salvato
Mary and Marvin Sauder
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Sara Spoonheim and Yali Amit



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Faith in Place is one of the best examples I've ever seen of a statewide organization that knows how to build true grassroots activism and power at the local level for the climate fight. And in particular, build that network and power among communities typically left out of the conversation."

-Jon Carson

Founding Partner, Trajectory Energy Partners, and former Executive Director of Organizing for Action

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The Faith in Place Staff Team at our 2019 Holiday Party.

Save the Dates

Green Team Summit September 13-17th

Our first ever online Green Team Summit will connect people of faith from different regions and religions who care for our common home. Save the dates now and stayed tuned for more information coming soon.

If you would like to sponsor this first ever online Green Team Summit, please email Valerie Skarbek at valerie@faithinplace.org for more information.

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