

What is GHIAA?

Founded in 2019, GHIAA has grown to include 50 diverse faith communities and allied institutions organizing together for justice in the Greater Hartford region. We develop leaders, build relationships, share our stories, and use our collective power to make concrete change in our communities. GHIAA is an initiative of the Center for Leadership and Justice.

What is the Center for Leadership and Justice?

Formerly the Christian Activities Council, we changed our name to better represent our lived reality and deep commitment to organizing for justice with increasingly diverse faith communities, neighborhood partners, and allied institutions. Our mission is to develop and organize leaders in neighborhood-based and multi-faith alliances to build power and act collectively for systemic change toward social, racial, and economic justice.

GHIAA Strategy Team

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**CENTER for
LEADERSHIP
& JUSTICE**

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GHIAA

Greater Hartford
— Interfaith —
Action Alliance

50 diverse faith
institutions throughout
Greater Hartford
organizing together
for justice!



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& JUSTICE**



GHIAA History

In 2016, leaders from faith communities across Greater Hartford gathered to envision a broad-based social justice initiative. The goal was to create a diverse organization of lay leaders and clergy, crossing lines of race, class, gender, religion, and geography, to build relational power to make change in our communities. Out of this process was born the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA), which launched officially in 2019.

GHIAA Organizing

We follow the principles and practices of faith-based relational organizing, grounded in a clear commitment to antiracism. We believe that deep and authentic relationships are the foundation of all we do. Therefore, we begin by listening to people's stories. From there, we identify shared themes in our struggles. We distill broad, nebulous problems into specific, concrete issues where we can use our collective power to create systemic change. We analyze power, act strategically, and evaluate our campaigns to learn from our successes and failures. We are always seeking to connect with new communities as we build power and make change.



GHIAA Impact

Since our founding, GHIAA leaders and our allies have achieved wins on many critical issues:

- **Criminal Justice:** passing clean slate legislation
- **Poverty:** eliminating welfare liens statewide
- **Racial Justice:** declaring racism as a public health crisis in our state
- **Housing:** relocating 240 families from inhumane conditions in the North End of Hartford and holding slumlords accountable for the harm done
- **Gun Violence:** allocating state funds for violence prevention and intervention
- **Education:** increasing equity in public schools by fully funding the ECS formula
- **Mental Health:** expanding HUSKY access for income-eligible people, regardless of immigration status
- **Environmental Justice:** establishing oversight and funding for remediation of the former MIRA trash-to-energy plant in Hartford's South Meadows

GHIAA Member Institutions

1. Asylum Hill Congregational Church, Hartford
2. B'nai Tikvoh-Sholom, Bloomfield
3. Beth El Temple, West Hartford
4. Beth Sholom B'nai Israel, Manchester
5. Center Church, Hartford
6. Center for Leadership and Justice, Hartford
7. Christ the King Catholic Parish, Wethersfield
8. Church of Christ, Congregational, Newington
9. Collaborative Center for Justice, Hartford
10. Concordia Lutheran Church, Manchester
11. Congregation Beth Israel, West Hartford
12. Congregation P'nai Or, West Hartford
13. Congregational Church in South Glastonbury
14. Emanuel Lutheran Church, Hartford
15. Faith Congregational Church, Hartford
16. Faith Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Hartford
17. Farmington Valley Jewish Congregation - Emek Shalom, Simsbury
18. First Church of Christ, Glastonbury
19. First Church of Christ, Simsbury
20. First Church of Christ, West Hartford
21. Flagg Road United Church of Christ, West Hartford
22. Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry, Hartford
23. Grace Lutheran Church, Hartford
24. Hartford Friends Meeting (Quakers), West Hartford
25. Immanuel Congregational Church, Hartford
26. Islamic Association of Greater Hartford, Berlin
27. Jewish Community Relations Council, Greater Hartford
28. Kehilat Chaverim, Greater Hartford
29. Ministerio Nueva Creación / New Creation Ministry, Manchester
30. Muslim Coalition of Connecticut
31. New Antioch Missionary Baptist, Hartford
32. New Covenant United Methodist Church, East Hartford
33. North End Power Team, Hartford
34. North United Methodist Church, Hartford
35. Office of the Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus, Archdiocese of Hartford
36. Riverfront Family Church, Hartford
37. Rocky Hill Congregational Church
38. Saint Mary's Episcopal Church, Manchester
39. Saint Monica's Episcopal Church, Hartford
40. Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Simsbury
41. Temple Sinai, Newington
42. Trinity Episcopal Church, Hartford
43. Trinity Lutheran Church, Vernon
44. Unitarian Society of Hartford
45. Unitarian Universalist Society: East, Manchester
46. United Methodist Church, Hartford
47. Universalist Church of West Hartford
48. Urban Hope Refuge Church, Hartford
49. West Hartford United Methodist Church
50. Westminster Presbyterian Church, West Hartford