

PARLIAMENT OF THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS.



» 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

THE POWR OF COMMUNITY

Building Up for the World's Premier Interfaith Convening

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@interfaithworld

OUR VISION AND MISSION

The vision of the Parliament of the World's Religions (PoWR) is of
A WORLD OF PEACE, JUSTICE, AND SUSTAINABILITY.

The Parliament of the World's Religions was created to
**CULTIVATE HARMONY AMONG THE WORLD'S
RELIGIOUS AND SPIRITUAL COMMUNITIES**
and foster their engagement with the world and its guiding institutions in
order to achieve a just, peaceful and sustainable world.

To accomplish this, we invite individuals and communities who are equally
invested in attaining this goal.





A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

As I look back on the year 2022, one word comes to my mind, and that word is "preparation." *2023 is coming.* The vast majority of our organization's work in 2022 went into preparing for the 2023 Chicago Convening as we invited the religions of the world to come together to defend *Freedom and Human Rights*. I am happy to say that the invitation did not go unanswered as thousands from all around the globe submitted program proposals for the Convening next year. Our dream is that next August, people of faith in Chicago stand as a beacon of light in a world often shrouded in darkness.

But we did not wait until the event next year to shine that light in the darkness. We spoke out against the erosion of voting rights, the illegal invasion of Ukraine, an unacceptable decision by the Supreme Court hurting the rights of women in our home country, and more. We worked diligently and successfully to convince the United Nations to recognize the rights of all people to live in a healthy environment. We lived by and promoted the Global Ethic. You will read much about the important work of PoWR and its staff, board, and volunteers in this report. Let's celebrate these successes as we look to next year.

As we prepare for the Chicago Convening and as I write this letter, we joined the observance of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. I remember the words of this man of great faith. "If we can break the system in Chicago, it can be broken any place..." Come break that system with us in August. It is time to *defend freedom and human rights* for all people. Answer the Call to Conscience and let's do this! If you have not already, please [register](#) to join us at the 9th Parliament of the World's Religions in Chicago being held from August 14-18, 2023. We need you. The world needs you.

See you soon on the shore of Lake Michigan,

Rev. Stephen Avino
Executive Director

OUR LEGACY

THE 2023 PARLIAMENT

2023 is a legacy year for the Parliament of the World's Religions. It marks 130 years since the 1893 World's Parliament of Religions and our return to the birthplace of the interfaith movement for the [2023 Parliament of the World's Religions](#) in Chicago, USA from August 14-18.

The 2023 Parliament of the World's Religions is primed to connect influential community leaders in faith, government, media, academia, business, NGO advocacy, and an international mainstream audience with visions of a world where democracy, freedom, and human rights are upheld through interfaith collaboration.

In 2022, the religions of the world have been building up towards the success of the 2023 Parliament Convening. The theme of the Convening calls upon faith, spiritual, and civic leaders around the world to answer the call to conscience in defending freedom and human rights through registration, the call for programs, volunteer opportunities, exhibiting and sponsorship options, and pre-Parliament events.



THE THEME

Freedom, human rights, and democracy are under attack all over the world. The 2023 Parliament will convene on the theme of *A Call to Conscience: Defending Freedom & Human Rights*, calling people of faith and conscience to stand up together in all their diversity and defend freedom and human rights.



Rev. Stephen Avino,
Executive Director

"...a place of open minds and open hearts where we can all express the wonder and dignity of our religious and spiritual traditions against the backdrop of the majestic beauty of Lake Michigan. But we could not do all this without addressing the foundational issue of our time; the threat to freedom and human rights. We must defend freedom and human rights together and find solutions to the rise of autocracy in our world."

THE PROGRAMMING

From May through November PoWR welcomed proposals for programs, presentations, religious observances, art, exhibits, and performances at the 2023 Parliament of the World's Religions. Over 1,300 proposals were received answering PoWR's call to conscience, the full program for the 2023 Convening is expected in the Spring of 2023.



Rev. HPs. Phyllis Currott,
2023 Program Chair

"Not only is it the 130th anniversary of the first Parliament that gave birth to the global interfaith movement, it is an urgently needed convening of that movement, in all of its maturity, diversity and strength, to respond to the growing global crisis of authoritarianism. Religious leaders and thousands of practitioners from all the world's traditions are responding to the Parliament's Call to Conscience to bring the full measure of our diverse and collective moral inspiration, strategies and activism in defending freedom and human rights."

GET INVOLVED



» REGISTER & SAVE



» HOST AN EXHIBIT



» HOST AN EVENT



» VOLUNTEER

OUR PROGRAMS, OUR APPROACH

The Parliament of the World's Religions' vision a just, peaceful, and sustainable world – and our commitment to bring that world into being – demands an address to the critical issues facing the human community and the Earth.

The Parliament of the World's Religions' role as a facilitator of interfaith **ENCOUNTERS, DIALOGUE, & COOPERATIVE COMMON ACTION**

puts it in a unique position to encourage and enable the religious and spiritual communities themselves to address the critical issues in meaningful and powerful ways.



Climate Action

Global Ethic

Indigenous Peoples

Next Generation

Peace & Justice

Women's Dignity



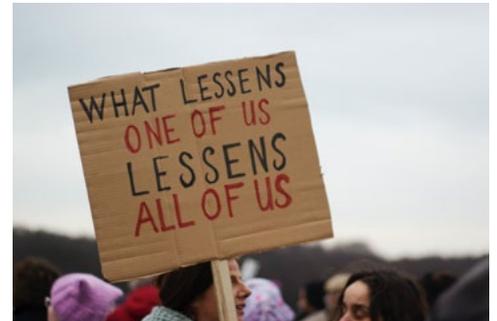
Climate Action Task Force Chairs
Imam Saffet Catovic and David Hales

INTERFAITH CLIMATE ACTION

The [Climate Action](#) Program advocates for aggressive action by the national governments, international agencies and financial institutions, and corporations and business entities in implementing and supporting human rights and the right to a healthy environment. The Climate Action Task Force (CATF) pushed for the United Nations to formally recognize the Human Right to a Clean, Healthy, and Sustainable Environment (R2HE). Welcoming a new Director of Climate Action earlier this year, the CATF directly advocated to the member states of the UN to affirm this critical human right, through coordinated work with various nongovernmental and interfaith organizations. The UN affirmed this right in late July with historic support– the resolution received 161 votes in favor and had over 100 co-sponsors.

As the implementation of this human right moves forward, PoWR believes that faith voices will be crucial drivers of change. The Climate Action Program has continued to pursue the implementation of this right, alongside the Rights of Nature, through advocacy at the United Nations COP27 (on Climate Change) and COP15 (on Biodiversity.) This theme will be a strong one at the 2023 Convening, where the CATF will continue to advocate for strong action to protect our planet and Earth’s biodiversity from the effects of the climate crisis.

TOWARDS A GLOBAL ETHIC



Global Ethic Committee Chair

Rev. Charline E. Manuel

The declaration, "[Towards a Global Ethic: An Initial Declaration](#)," or the Global Ethic, calls for all people, religious or not, to commit themselves to the values and principles expressed in this landmark document. These values and principles, identified through a widely consultative and collaborative process, are shared by the world's religious, spiritual, and cultural traditions but too often ignored or defied.

The [Global Ethic](#) Committee devoted its work in 2022 to raising the profile of this foundational document through dedicated outreach about its practical applications and by reviewing and organizing numerous grass-roots programs to be offered during the 2023 Parliament Convening in Chicago.

To kick off this outreach, the Committee offered the webinar in November, "The Global Ethic: A Common Moral Foundation for a World in Conflict." It marked the launch of a quarterly webinar series that will offer a deep dive into the moral commitments elaborated in the Global Ethic. These webinars are an opportunity for PoWR to engage constituents in conversation. Their comments and insights will inform the future programming of the Global Ethic Committee at the 2023 Parliament Convening and beyond.



Indigenous Working Group Chair

Lewis Cardinal

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

[Indigenous Peoples](#) and their spiritual traditions are integral to the Parliament of the World's Religions through profound and sacred engagements at its major international Parliament Convenings, in programming at the United Nations, and in far-reaching advocacy on urgent issues including the protection of sacred Indigenous sites, and all of life itself.

In 2022, the Indigenous Peoples' Working Group made concentrated efforts to engage global Indigenous voices in the lead-up to the 2023 Parliament Convening. From cross-cultural dialogue among youth to activism on religious freedom led by Indigenous Elders and Wisdom Keepers, the Working Group is organizing rituals, workshops, artistic expression, sacred observances, and panels led by Indigenous Peoples from around the world on self-identified topics as well on the major themes of the 2023 Convening: democracy, freedom and human rights.

THE NEXT GENERATION



NextGen Task Force Chair Kehkashan Basu

The [Next Generation Task Force](#) is committed to engaging spiritually and geographically diverse young changemakers who are tackling critical issues and working towards interfaith cooperation in their communities. With an emphasis on networking, service, and inclusion the Next Generation Task Force utilizes programming at Parliament Convenings to build local, regional, and international coalitions of interfaith actors interested in youth and PoWR's critical issues to help carry out campaigns and programs in between Parliament Convenings.

In 2022, the Task Force members dedicated their work in the promotion of the Call for Programs and the engagement of students for the 2023 Parliament Convening. Virtual pre-Parliament events are being planned to engage youth voices from faith and civic organizations in the lead-up to the 2023 Convening.



Peace and Justice Task Force Chair Thomas Lemberg

PEACE AND JUSTICE

The mission of the [Peace and Justice Task Force](#) is to encourage and enable interfaith action to promote peace and justice, and to oppose war and injustice, in keeping with the principles of the Global Ethic. Its work, to encompass such areas as economic justice, racism, war and peace, hunger and antisemitism, is particularly essential in this time in which forces of reaction and war have been on the march.

In 2022, the first major effort of the task force is the planning of a project to foster community healing in response to religious violence. Through the project, the task force will learn, compare and share examples of positive religious community responses to violence that brought healing and helped transform local communities into greater racial and religious understanding. The project is under development.

WOMEN'S DIGNITY



Women's Task Force Chair

Rev. HPs. Phyllis Currott

The [Women's Task Force \(PWTF\)](#) encourages and enables collective and individual action to promote the dignity and human rights of women and girls, to stop religiously justified violence against women and girls, and to promote women's leadership and equal participation in religious, faith, spiritual, and other institutions.

In 2022, the Task Force committed to serving as the voice of women and girls on critical issues emerging in the world. In August, PWTF issued a unanimous statement condemning the SCOTUS Dobbs decision overturning Roe v. Wade. The letter was quoted in a legal paper developed by the Ford Foundation and has received numerous appreciative responses. And in December, the Women's Task Force advocated along with other organizations, communities, and UN member states for the successful removal of the Republic of Iran from the UN Commission on the Status of Women. The Task Force is developing women's programming, including recommending notable women to address the Plenaries on the Convening's theme and its impact on women and girls at the 2023 Parliament of the World's Religions.

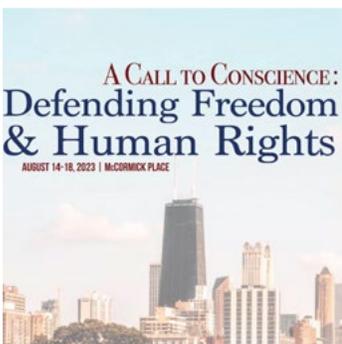
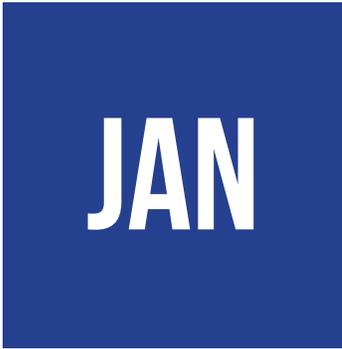
Plans for early 2023 include the development of pre-Parliament women's programming, including webinars and online content.

A YEAR IN REVIEW



2022 brought forth challenges and opportunities in the advancement of the mission and vision of the Parliament of the World's Religions. Through interfaith responses to the critical issues facing the world, programming advancing the voices of critical constituencies, and building up for the success of the 2023 Parliament

Convening, PoWR built capacity and continues to uphold its commitment to action-driven interfaith dialogue. Explore all our work at parliamentofreligions.org/all-announcements/





JUL



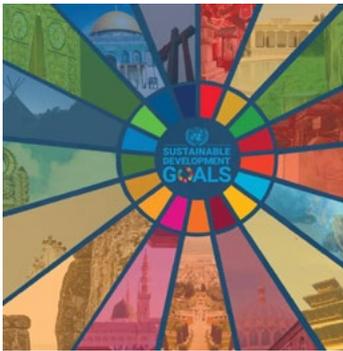
AUG



SEP



OCT



NOV



DEC



BOARD OFFICERS



Chair of the Board

Mr. Nitin Ajmera is a senior management professional, teacher at Drexel University, and serves as the Chair of the Board of the Parliament of the World's Religions.



Vice-Chair of the Board

Rev. Dr. Scott Stearman is a pastor in New York City and representative of the Baptist global body at the United Nations (supported by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and the Baptist World Alliance).



Vice-Chair of the Board

Mr. James A. Lynch, Jr. is a Dharma Teacher of the Buddhist Organization Rissho Kosei Kai and an official representative for Rissho Kosei Kai to the United Nations.



Secretary

Rev. Charline Manuel is an ordained Unity minister serving and serves as online adjunct faculty instructor for the Unity Urban Ministerial School located in Detroit, Michigan.



Treasurer

Imam Saffet Abid Catovic is the Program Manager of the Office of Interfaith, Community Alliances and Government Relations of ISNA. In 2022, he served as Co-Chair of the Climate Action Task Force and serves as Senior Muslim advisor at GreenFaith.

OUR LEADERSHIP

The work of the Parliament of the World's Religions is made possible by the steadfast and heartfelt dedication to our mission from members of the Board of Trustees, staff, and Task Force members.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Nitin Ajmera
Sahar Alsahlani
Naeem Baig
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Kehkashan Basu
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POWR STAFF



Rev. Stephen Avino,
Executive Director



Miriam Quezada,
Director of Communications



Emma Carr,
Director of Development



Emily Echevarria,
Director of Climate Action



Jesse Smith,
Staff Accountant

2023 CONVENING STAFF



Dr. Myriam Renaud,
Director of the Global Ethic Project



Dannie Ramirez,
Program Associate



Rev. Flynn Rush,
Outreach Associate



Susan Trieschmann,
Executive Assistant

CIRCLE OF PATRONS

The Circle of Patrons is a group of generous supporters and interfaith leaders who wish to help ensure the strength and sustainability of PoWR's vision of interfaith understanding and partnership working to bring into being a world of peace, justice, and care for the Earth.



Bhai Sahib Bhai Mohinder Singh Ahluwalia OBE KSG



Bhai Sahib Mohinder Singh is the Spiritual Leader and Chairman of Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha, UK, a charitable organization with its headquarters in Birmingham.

The Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation



A worldwide humanitarian and educational organization established in 1966 by Dharma Master Cheng Yen, a Taiwanese Buddhist nun.

The Circle of Friends for VRG Vision



A group of Jains inspired by the vision of Virchand Raghav Gandhi (VRG), who represented Jainism at the historic World Parliament of Religions in Chicago in 1893 and brought Jainism into a dialogue with other faiths which has continued ever since.

The Guru Nanak Interfaith Committee



A group of Sikhs inspired by the Sikh vision to create a world order in which all human beings are equal and empowered to serve and uplift the marginalized and the oppressed.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The work of the Parliament of the World's Religions is made possible through the ongoing support of donors, members, and grants.

2022 MEMBERS*



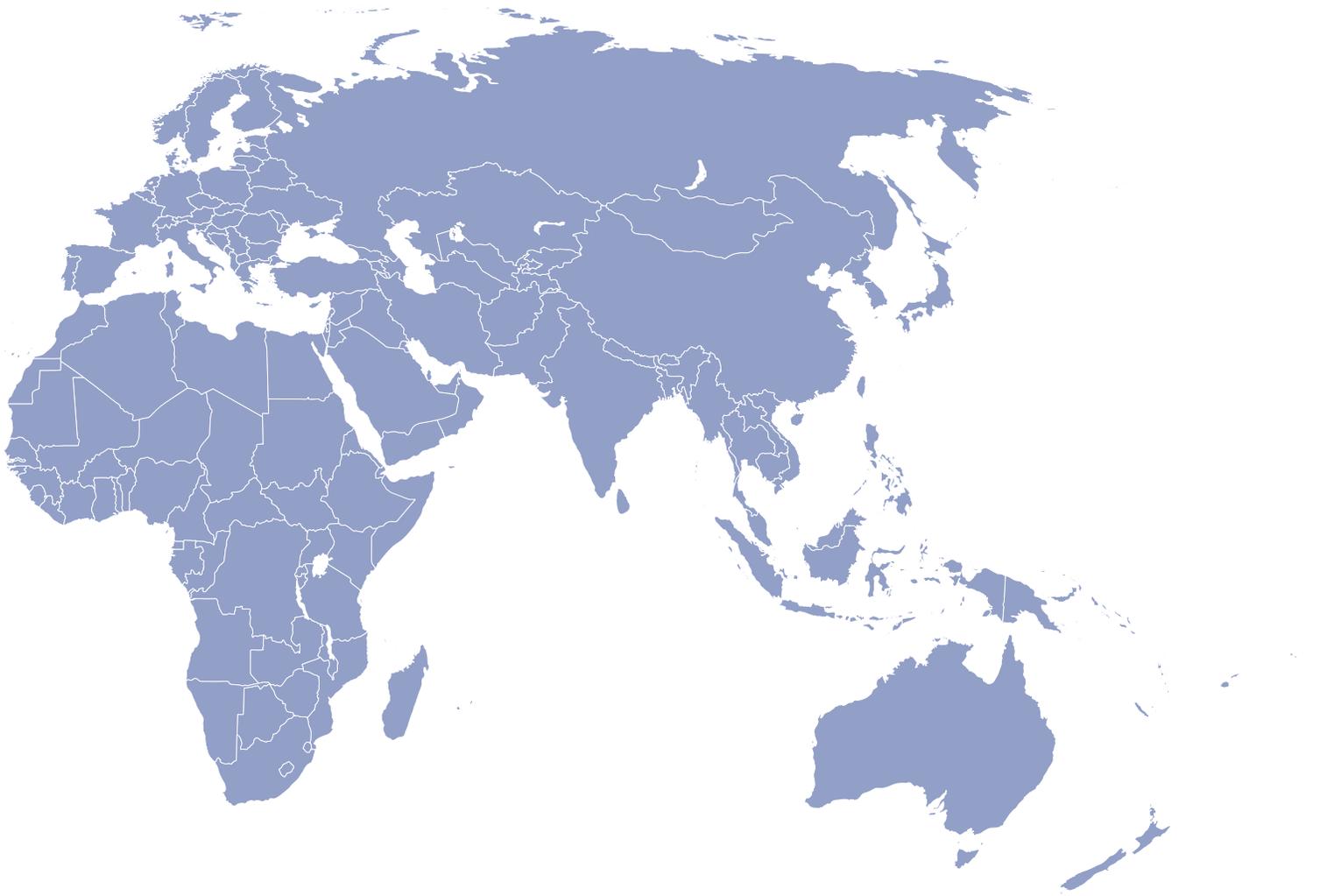
Sustaining Members

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Fred Coleman
Helen Cooluris
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Charles McDonald
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Suzanne Morgan
Kusumita P. Pedersen
Buck Tarpley
Theo M.A. van Wijk

**Sustaining and Cornerstone members are acknowledged publicly unless they opt for anonymity.*



BY THE NUMBERS

19+ Countries

85+ Religions

631+ Members



Emma Carr,
**Director of
Development**

“Major grants and private donations to PoWR are often made possible by individuals and communities who recommend our organization to their networks. I invite you to consider sharing the work of the Parliament of the World’s Religions and recommend us as a possible grantee, connect with me at your convenience at +1- 312-971-3180 or emma@parliamentofreligions.org if you have any leads.”



2022 FINANCIAL REPORT

The following financial information is an in-good faith estimate, the final amount may change upon completion of the annual financial audit in 2023.

REVENUE*

\$963,605

NET REVENUE*

\$416,136

* Includes Deferred Revenue and Expenses for the 2023 Parliament Convening.

More financial information can be found on PoWR's Guidestar Profile or on the IRS Charity Database.



[IRS Charities and Nonprofits](#)

Parliament of the Worlds Religions
EIN: 36-3605228 | Chicago, Illinois, United States
Former Names:
Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions

OUR FINANCIALS

The Parliament of the World's Religions is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization audited annually and a platinum-level Guidestar participant, with demonstrated commitment to transparency.

SUPPORT OUR WORK

In 2022 the Parliament of the World's Religions and the global interfaith community have answered the Call to Conscience to 2023 Parliament of the World's Religion, convening August 14-18, 2023 in Chicago, USA.

We invite you to contribute a building block and become a part of the legacy of the Parliament of the World's Religions.

Want to recommend PoWR to a foundation in your network? Want to explore ways to give? Connect with our Director of Development today at emma@parliamentofreligions.org

DONATE



By contributing to PoWR, you will be supporting interfaith harmony, combating climate change, resisting hate and intolerance, and promoting ethical religious literacy.

BECOME A MEMBER



PoWR Members are annual supporters of PoWR's ongoing work, join a global community, and gain access to our full database of media.

ROUNDUP YOUR CHANGE



With RoundUp App you can donate your spare change from purchases at the end of each month! It's an easy and fun way to support interfaith harmony every day.

LEAVE A LEGACY



Planned giving offers a number of ways you can contribute to the sustainability of PoWR in the long term. Consult with your financial advisor to discuss the tax benefits of bequests, life income gifts, and more.

SHOP FOR GOOD



Support PoWR when you shop online. Platforms like DealAid.org, PayPal, and eBay provide you with an easy opportunity to donate to the causes you care about.

DONATE STOCK



You can donate to us by transferring stock. Donating appreciated stock will usually have tax benefits for you. If you'd like our brokerage information, contact us.



>> CONTACT US



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