



North Carolina  
Council of Churches

2022

Annual  
REVIEW

## God's Beloved Community

Jennifer Copeland , Executive Director

Another year and we are still here doing the work of the North Carolina Council of Churches. The story remains remarkably the same, building on the foundation laid by those who came before us, who showed us hope and dedication, faithfulness and leadership, conviction and courage. While the issues we address today are not the same issues tackled by our founders, our singular starting place has remained constant. We refract everything through the prophetic witness of the Old Testament and the gospel message of the New Testament. This conversational starting place is not based on polemics and, thus, leads to conclusions grounded in God's intention for the flourishing of all creation.

It's not enough to stand for these issues of human dignity and care for creation without being active in pursuit of their accomplishment. Much of our work involves educating people of faith about the connection between their beliefs and the public policies that bracket their lives. In all our advocacy work, we foreground these faith claims. Education about the issues, coupled with inspiration gleaned from the scriptures, mobilizes us to live into God's beloved community. In this report, we invite you to join us in celebrating the past year. We also hope you will look for places you can join us on this faith-filled journey. May God continue to guide and sustain us all.

# OUR IMPACT



**25** EVENTS  
**10,000** PARTICIPANTS



**1,123** NEW SUBSCRIBERS  
**19,219** TOTAL SUBSCRIBERS



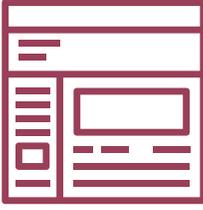
**55,449** NEW WEBSITE USERS  
**102,806** TOTAL PAGEVIEWS



**32** PRESS MENTIONS



**149** NEW SOCIAL FOLLOWERS  
**4,025** TOTAL FOLLOWERS



**64** TOTAL VOICES PUBLISHED  
**17,287** TOTAL VOICES PAGEVIEWS

# OUR PRIORITIES



## PHW Impact in 2022

- ▶ **149** faith communities joined The PHW Collaborative
- ▶ Hosted **22** events with **711** attendees
- ▶ Awarded **\$274,311** worth of grants
- ▶ Launched **Instagram** account
- ▶ Published HIV & Healthy Aging toolkits
- ▶ Hosted the [Faith and Health Summit](#)
- ▶ [Awarded 2nd Willona Stallings Award](#)
- ▶ Launched **Mental Health Listening Post** at UMC Annual Conferences



## EJC Impact in 2022

- ▶ Launched a year-long campaign on **climate justice and resilience**, an intersectional campaign on climate justice and resilience rooted in our [JEDI Principles](#)
- ▶ NCIPL became an **official intervener** in the [N.C. Carbon planning process](#)
- ▶ Hired **EJC Program Coordinator**, Ren Martin
- ▶ **Testified at EPA hearing** on methane pollution from oil and gas operations

Gun Violence Prevention  
Cash Bail Reform  
Public Education

Confederate Monument Removal  
Death Penalty Abolition  
Overdose Response

Legislative Advocacy  
Healthcare Justice  
Farmworkers

# 2022 ACHIEVEMENTS

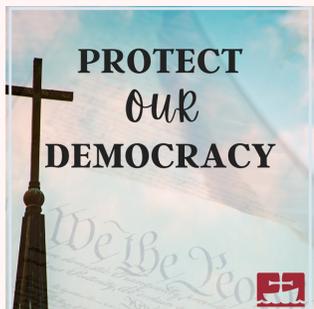
## Policy Statements approved by Governing Board

Resolution on Reproductive Health

A Resolution to Change the Cash Bail Bond System

Statement Condemning Violence Against our Jewish Neighbors

Read the full statements: [ncchurches.org/issue-statements/](https://ncchurches.org/issue-statements/)



## 2022 Critical Issues Seminar: Voting Rights

Hosted Critical Issues Seminar on "The Ties that Bind Our Democracy." We presented the Council's Distinguished Service Award to Steve Ford, a longtime volunteer associate and regular contributor to The Raleigh Report. Expert speakers spoke on the following topics: Democracy Under Stress, Why Redistricting Matters, Courts at the Crossroads, Challenges of Voter Suppression, and Democracy in Action.

## North Carolina Truth, Justice, and Reconciliation Advisory Council

The Council has partnered with the Beloved Community Center in Greensboro as they launched a statewide initiative to "reconcile historical differences, promote real justice and forge a more peaceful state and nation." The work is a grassroots, people-powered process designed to walk the varied segment of N.C.'s diverse population towards each other so that they may eventually walk together, building broad "community truths."



## The North Carolina Carbon Plan

Duke Energy filed a proposed carbon plan in spring 2022. The final plan will have far-reaching implications for our state's economy, climate efforts, and public health. Therefore, NC Interfaith Power & Light on behalf of the N.C. Council of Churches became an official intervener in this planning process.

## Overdose Prevention

The Partners in Health and Wholeness initiative is part of a coalition working with the N.C. Office of the Attorney General to ensure those directly impacted by the opioid crisis are included as partners as the \$750,000,000 from the Global Opioid Settlement funds are distributed in N.C.

## Cash Bail Task Force

Cash Bail Reform is a part of our criminal justice system coming under the microscope for its unfair application. It is also a misunderstood piece of the justice system, making it harder to reform. The Council has assembled a team of representatives from several of our member denominations to help educate all of us about Cash Bail Reform and advocate for better practices. To join this work, contact [info@ncchurches.org](mailto:info@ncchurches.org).

# TESTIMONY

## Ministry Spotlight: Mount Level Missionary Baptist Church

While the Council celebrates all the work accomplished in faith communities across North Carolina, our ministry spotlight is Mount Level Missionary Baptist Church in Durham. Mount Level recently received a grant from the Council to enhance its mental health ministry capacity. These grants were made possible by The Duke Endowment with the intention to privilege BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) congregations who would use the resources specifically for mental health advocacy.

Mount Level is a testament to the goodness possible when a faith community has the courage to eliminate stigma around mental health. Their education and advocacy efforts have reached all ages, with a particular focus on youth. They host monthly events focused on mental health training, education, and resources for themselves and the surrounding community. They offered both adult and youth sessions for Mental Health First Aid training, in which eleven different churches participated.

Mount Level offers support groups like their widow/widower Christmas gathering. They provide subsidies for individual counseling sessions with a licensed therapist. They offer youth a “parent-free” group session to discuss mental health concerns and strategize different ways to support their peers. And they have established mental health support for their pastoral staff. This is in addition to the ongoing programming they offer for mental health awareness.

We applaud the commitment to mental health of Mount Level Missionary Baptist Church. We salute their health lead, Ms. Mary Baldwin, RN, MPH, who has the support of their pastor, the Rev. Dr. William Turner. Well done, Mount Level Missionary Baptist Church.

## THANK YOU

The Council strives to inspire God’s people to work together to accomplish things we could never do alone. We are grateful for those who have supported this work through the decades with time investments, financial contributions, heartfelt prayers, and encouraging words. We thank God for your generosity and partnership in the work of justice in the state of North Carolina and beyond. Change is happening through the North Carolina Council of Churches.

## CONTACT US

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### We also thank our denominational members for their support:

Alliance of Baptists | African Methodist Episcopal Church | African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church | Christian Methodist Episcopal | Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) | Episcopal Church | Evangelical Lutheran Church in America | General Baptist State Convention | Metropolitan Community Churches | Mennonite Church USA | Moravian Church in America | Presbyterian Church (USA) | Reformed Church in America | Reformed Churches of God in Christ, International | Religious Society of Friends | United Church of Christ | Unity Fellowship Church Movement | United Methodist Church

### 2023 Governing Board Members

Conrad Pridgen (President) | Hanna Broome (President-Elect) | Isaac Villegas (Past-President) | Claire Clyburn (Treasurer) | Pat Boswell (Secretary) | Patricia Anderson | Christine Ashley | Jill Beimdiek | Christy Clore | Donna Chavis | Wess Daniels | Frank Dew | Richard Elliott | Marcus Fairley | Alan Felton | Erika Funk | Denzel Goodlin | Renee Hayes | Vance Haywood | Jacquelyn Holland | Jill Isola | Vickie Kotlarz | James Maynard | Erin Maxfield-Steele | Paul McAllister | Valerie Melvin | Daran Mitchell | Katushka Olave | Beth Owen | William Pegues | Albert Shuler | Amelia Stinson-Wesley | John Taylor