

ANNUAL ASSEMBLY – June 2, 2021
NASHUA AREA INTERFAITH COUNCIL

Agenda

- 1. Introductions and opening prayer**
- 2. Review of year – overview and small-group conversations celebrating what we have accomplished and what our gatherings have added to our year**
- 3. Treasurer’s report 2021-2022 budget**
- 4. Nomination and election of new officers**
- 5. Other unplanned NAIC business?**
 - a. Informational – we will work on updating our by-laws with inclusive language**
- 6. Discussion of ideas to guide planning of new year – what lies ahead, what do we hope to accomplish**
- 7. Announcements**
- 8. Adjourn**

Next official meeting: Wednesday, Sept. 1 at 12:00 pm (currently planned for Zoom)

After-meeting: Covid-19 topic free discussion for those who wish to stay

TREASURER’S REPORT – Meta Vornehm

The NAIC maintains three accounts: the NAIC general account as well as acting as a fiscal sponsor for the Interfaith Choir and the Crop Walk.

Income:

Our sole source of revenue this year was Member Dues. We collected less in member dues as a result of the pandemic. Normally we also collect donations at the Thanksgiving Service and the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity which did not happen in person this year.

Expenses:

Typically, our largest expense is donations to causes associated with our speakers. But, this year we had more internal speakers which reduced our costs. We also pay administrative costs: fees (State of NH Annual Report, 5 Year Non-Profit Report) and supplies (post office box, web hosting, etc.). This year we had a onetime expense for the design of our new logo.

Balance Sheet 06/30/2021

Assets

Bank Interfaith	\$1,888.67
ChristianUnity	\$273.20
Bank Choir	\$811.75
Bank Crop Walk	\$1,353.97
Total Assets	\$4,327.59

NAIC GENERAL ACCOUNT

Cash Flow - 07/01/2020 to 06/30/2021

Money into selected accounts comes from

Income:Dues	\$825.00
Money In	\$825.00

Money out of selected accounts goes to

Expenses:Dues	\$250.00
Expenses:Fees	\$107.00
Expenses:General (logo)	\$256.05
Expenses:Gifts - Donations to speakers	\$225.00

Expenses:Online Services	\$60.00
Expenses:Supplies	\$22.00
Expenses:US Post Office	\$176.00
Money Out	\$1,096.05

Difference **(\$271.05)**

INTERFAITH CHOIR ACCOUNT

Cash Flow - 07/01/2020 to 06/30/2021

Money into selected accounts comes from

Income:Choir Dues & Donations	\$20.00
Money In	\$20.00

Money out of selected accounts goes to

Expenses:Choir:Sheet Music	\$48.46
Money Out	\$48.46

Difference **(\$28.46)**

CROP WALK ACCOUNT

Cash Flow - 07/01/2020 to 06/30/2021

Money into selected accounts comes from

Income:Crop Walk Donations	\$1,750.00
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Money In	\$1,750.00
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Money out of selected accounts goes to

Expenses:Crop Walk	\$2,825.37
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Money Out	\$2,825.37
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Difference	(\$1,075.37)
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Proposed 2021-2022 NAIC Budget

Revenues

Income

Christian Unity	\$200.00
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Dues	\$1,300.00
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Total Revenue	\$1,500.00
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Expenses

Christian Unity	\$125.00
Thanksgiving Service Budget	\$250.00
Dues	\$250.00
Online Services	\$60.00
Fees	\$75.00
Gifts - Donations to speakers	\$450.00
US Post Office	\$210.00
Total Expenses	\$1,420.00
Net income for Proposed NAIC 2021-2022 Budget	\$80.00

NOMINATIONS FOR NAIC EXECUTIVE BOARD – 2-year terms beginning July 1, 2021

Treasurer – Meta Vornehm

Secretary – Rev. Kristy Besada

At-Large Member – Pamela Wellman

Continuing Board Members: Rabbi Jonathan Spira-Savett, President; Rev. Sally Newhall, Past President; Rev. Michael Greene, Vice President; Margaret Hamm, At-Large Member

Thank you to Rev. Tanya Stormo Rasmussen, who served as Secretary this past year!

GREATER NASHUA CROP HUNGER WALK – Rebecca Green

Last year's walk was themed Walking Together...Apart. We encouraged people to walk with small church or friend or family groups, with masks. The recruiters had Cropwalk masks to give to their walkers and many of those have been worn throughout the area this winter. A 1-mile walk was created by Pat Rafter from the parking lot of the Milford United Methodist Church through their property and back, which was well-used. Many small walks added up to highly successful fundraising! We raised \$44,923 with \$11,230 going to our 5 local agencies (Share Inc, Merrimack Food Pantry, Corpus Christi Food Pantry, SJN Food Pantry, Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter). Most (~\$34,000) was raised on line. For comparison, we raised \$47,843 in 2019. ***We are the #1***

walk in New England. Christ the King with their 98 contributors and \$5795 was among the top 100 faith communities in the country!! We awarded virtual shoes at the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. The winners by size category were:

Mini: Corpus Christi Food Pantry

Small: Nashua Presbyterian

Medium: Christ the King Lutheran (also overall highest for the walk!)

Large: Temple Beth Abraham

Very large: St John Neuman

The 2021 walk will be take place on Sunday, October 24, 3.4 miles, beginning and ending at Temple Beth Abraham. (We'll promote separate walks for those who need to stay away from large groups.) There will again be an alternative Sabbath walk on Saturday, October 23 from Merrimack Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints on Concord St. The registrations, walks, and celebrations will be outdoors. If weather brings us indoors then all will be asked to wear masks. Food will be served cafeteria style rather than buffet.

GREATER NASHUA INTERFAITH CHOIR – Rebecca Green

The interfaith choir last sang together at the Martin Luther King service in January of 2020. Many of us individually recorded Ani Ma'Amin in April. Jed Holland spent many hours mixing the music which was played for the virtual Holocaust Memorial Service in 2020 and in 2021 as well.

Then our voices were silent.

Now we are coming back! 23 fully-vaccinated choir members are coming together next week to rehearse and then sing, outdoors, for the NSKS dedication of their new family shelter on Wednesday, June 16. We expect to be singing again at the Crop Hunger Walk, and the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service.

MAYOR'S OPIOID TASK FORCE -- Rev. Mike Greene

The Task force met exclusively online throughout the past year, and meetings were sporadic. We planned for some outreach and advertising for various support and education groups during the pandemic. We focused as well on education initiatives and were updated by local and state police as well as the local DEA office.

CONTINUUM OF CARE – Mike Apfelberg

The Youth Homelessness Committee of the COC continues to work on supporting and expanding the Stepping Stones program, which has funding needs, and is working at implementation of a trial placement for host homes to support homeless youth.

GRANITE STATE ORGANIZING PROJECT – Aron DiBacco

GSOP has been active in Nashua this year supporting the residents of Bronstein in their upcoming move, working with the Nashua Interfaith Housing Justice Group on an affordable housing trust fund, and keeping pressure on the Board of Aldermen to support affordable housing in all area

development. This coming year we will be hosting Candidate Forums to make it clear to those running for office that affordable housing is a core issue for the people of Nashua.

WEEKLY RELIGIOUS GROUP LEADER SUPPORT MEETING – Rabbi Jon Spira-Savett

Throughout the year, a group of usually 6-10 of us who serve primarily as congregational clergy have met every Monday morning at 9:00 am on Zoom. It has been an opportunity mostly for informal conversation focused on or jumping off from Covid-19 related themes or policy questions within our work, but also a chance generally to connect in a friendly way. For many this is the beginning of our work week and a particularly beautiful and grounding way to start off. We plan to continue to meet and our group is open to anyone in a role as the leader of a faith congregation.

GREATER NASHUA INTERFAITH HOUSING JUSTICE GROUP – Rabbi Jon Spira-Savett

About 10 of us who self-define as religious leaders – including leaders of congregations and faith-inspired leaders of or in other organizations – have continued to meet twice a month. Our work is rooted in a self-defined desire to reflect on ourselves as collective and effective justice leaders generally in the community, and sometimes we have focused our meetings on ourselves as allies through readings we discuss or the exploration of sacred texts. Most of our concrete work has been focused by what we know from meetings or conversations with officials of the City of Nashua; we have regular contact with Director of Community Development Sarah Marchant and some members of the Board of Aldermen, and we met last summer with Mayor Donchess, Director Marchant, and others formally. We have worked most of the year on learning about affordable housing trust funds so that we can advocate for a substantial municipal fund here, we have added our voices at the state legislative level for the state's housing fund and other policies, we have spoken up to great effect at relevant meetings of the Imagine Nashua master plan process, we have educated some local civic groups including Rotary and youth organizations. We have worked with a high school intern, Lela Spira-Savett, who works most closely with Aron DiBacco of GSOP. We have made ourselves available as allies to GSOP for their work focused on the Bronstein apartments and other downtown matters. This work will continue through the summer, and one of our upcoming areas will be to organize YIMBY (yes-in-my-backyard) response groups as affordable housing initiatives of all scopes come up in the area. We are exploring our role vis-à-vis other groups in town active on housing to build better connections. If you are interested in becoming part of our organizing or our actions please be in touch!