



Faith & the Common Good Annual Report 2018



Faith & the
Common Good | La foi et le
bien commun



Letter from the Executive Director



Lucy Cummings,
Executive Director,
Faith & the Common Good

How can we do better? As a network that supports faith communities across the country in being more environmentally friendly within their places of worship as well as in the communities they serve, we, at FCG, continuously ask ourselves this question.

Over the course of 2018, we intentionally dug deeper, with the goal of surfacing some clearly defined answers. We spent much time examining who we are and how relevant our projects and programs are to the communities with whom we work. We took note of our relationships, where our partners and allies are, obvious and not so obvious and who is missing from the table.

We were thrilled to be able to have the guidance and expertise of the [Endeavour Volunteer Consulting for Non-Profits](#) (EVCN) group in helping us understand our role as a multifaith network, whose interest is catalysing climate action within faith communities. This incredible team of young professionals helped us create our 5 year strategic plan (2019-2023), pro bono! It was a search for understanding that took us into the fall, and the results surprised and encouraged us.

Many of our new 2018 initiatives and programs focused on testing and evaluating emerging strategic themes.

- We piloted neighbourhood extreme weather resilience models, which featured faith communities as support anchors, in 3 separate GTHA communities
- Our Regeneration Works project boldly explored the challenge of re-invigorating the physical spaces of faith buildings for neighbourhood purposes.
- We worked with the United Church of Canada to launch "Faithful Footprints", a national program featuring climate action grants, tools and support.

In all our programming, we also looked into how to be more effective at communicating our concerns so as to garner broader support and action. Our network's participation in the November 2018 Parliament of the World's Religions in Toronto with its focus on climate justice was a powerful close to a productive year.

I invite you to read on.

Lucy Cummings
Executive Director, Faith & the Common Good

**DO
BETTER,
BE BETTER**

IMPACTS

Over 45,000 page views
3500 - 4000 page views/month
5200 website users for 2018

650 + Active Faith Communities
20 Faith Traditions Represented
800 + Green Events & Activities



500

Website
Subscribers



8 Gardens Created

7 Faith Buildings Audited

26 Green Certificates and Awards

4000+
Volunteers



50+
Events held
across
Canada

6000+

Event Participants



25 Blog Posts

85

Partner Organizations



14

Media Articles

Including podcasts, print and web



1220

Twitter Followers
(20% increase from 2017)



3 New YouTube
Videos



Facebook Likes

1090

(15% increase from 2017)

3,258

Newsletter
Subscribers

(+908 Subscribers to newsletters)



Launches

In 2018, we benchmarked! Faith & the Common Good launched an [Energy benchmarking program](#) in Ontario.

The GTHA Faith Building Energy Benchmarking Program, funded by Ontario Trillium Foundation from 2017 – 2020:

- Target is 100 faith communities in Toronto, York Halton/Oakville & Hamilton (58 to date!)
- Features easy-to-use, on-line Energy Star Portfolio Manager benchmarking system
- Track & improve energy/utility performance (electricity, gas)



[Cultivating Care for Our Common Home](#) program

that strengthens efforts to renew the sacred balance in our interrelated world.

With interactive presentations and workshops, any interested groups in Toronto can reach out to explore and respond more deeply to Pope Francis' call that everyone living on the planet actively engage in caring for our common home.

[Faithful Footprints](#) is about living our climate commitments, for future generations, and for all of creation.

[Through a partnership](#) with the United Church of Canada, Faithful Footprints offers grants and support for churches to measure their energy use and reduce their climate pollution, while saving money and strengthening congregational renewal.



[Together we can renew our congregations](#), care for the planet, save money, and reduce climate pollution.



Resilience Pilot: 3 Cities

Building a Neighbourhood-based Climate Adaptation Infrastructure



The pilot sought to learn how we can build an affordable and replicable social infrastructure to support vulnerable residents as they grapple with climate induced extreme weather emergencies. Faith communities proved to be important catalysts in the growth of local networks that want to be responsive to the needs of their communities.

Project Lead: Faith & the Common Good

Project Manager: Community Resilience to Extreme Weather (CREW)

Learning Partners: Tamarack Institute, The School for Social Entrepreneurs-Ontario

Funding Partner: Ontario Trillium Foundation

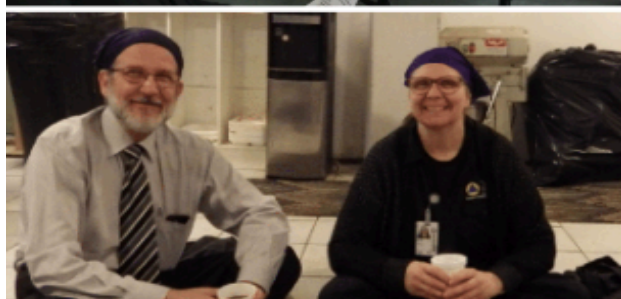
Program Partners: Environment Hamilton, The City of Brampton's Emergency Management Office

Canadian communities across the country are facing the devastating consequences of increasingly severe weather such as extreme heat, drought, fire, floods, hurricanes and storms.

FCG's Lighthouse Project was an exploratory year-long pilot funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation in three Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) municipalities—Hamilton, Brampton and Toronto—to show the viability of establishing community designed and led extreme weather resilience hubs.



City of Brampton,
Lighthouse Program symbol.



Parliament of the World Religions



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.

In 2018, Faith & the Common Good joined the Parliament's [Climate Action Task Force](#) and helped shaped the conversation that attracted more than 8,000 participants from more than 118 spiritual and secular traditions from 81 countries to Toronto to "pursue global understanding, reconciliation, and change" in the world's most culturally diverse city.

Our ED had the pleasure of interviewing world-renowned and beloved Canadian poet, novelist, and environmental activist, [Margaret Atwood](#) to explore the intertwined nature of climate change, conflict, and violence against women.



**"This isn't climate change - it's everything change."
— Margaret Atwood**

Additional FCG programming included:

- *The Chemical Valley Project: Protest. Performance. Reconciliation.* - an innovative documentary-theatre performance telling the story of a small Indigenous community smothered by Canada's petrochemical industry in our own backyard.
- *Taking Action on the Climate Imperative: Faith and Community Groups on the Front Lines* - a panel discussion that included policy and advocacy, energy infrastructure, climate justice, congregational greening and providing educational resources.
- *Wisdom Raising Her Voices: Networking for Justice* - a conversation on what breaks the heart, and what gives hope regarding the issue of women's equality in Wisdom traditions.
- *Spirited Women as Agents of Change on Climate* - a panel discussion including Indigenous, Muslim, Jewish and Christian women on the front lines of climate action within their own traditions.

Celebrating Faith Role Models: Green Sacred Spaces Awards

Every year, through the [Greening Sacred Spaces](#) FCG recognizes faith groups within our network that have achieved excellence in greening their sacred spaces and engaged the broader community in the care of the environment. In 2018 the following chapters celebrated:

Halton

- **Shaarei-Beth El Congregation, Oakville.** Connecting nature to faith, Shaarei-Beth El planted trees and built a native species garden—habitat that feeds local pollinators. They paired this work with a full day of educational activities for their school's students and parents so as to raise awareness about the critical need to support biodiversity.
- **Christ the King Catholic Secondary School, Georgetown.** With the goal of encouraging other schools to do the same, Christ the King planted a meditative garden of pollinator-friendly plants. Purchasing plants from [Kayanase Greenhouse](#) in Six Nations, the school emphasized the need for students and the school community to acknowledge what 150 really means for Canadians and to get involved with the Truth and Reconciliation Act. Halton Environmental Network presented the award at the Joshua Creek Heritage Arts Centre. Stacey Laforme, elected Chief of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation, was the key guest speaker.

Toronto

- **St. Cuthbert Anglican Church, Leaside.** Over the past decade, this church has made many upgrades to its building including installing two high-efficiency boilers, LED lights inside and outside, and a protective layer for its stained glass windows. It has reconfigured its downspouts, put bike racks in the parking lot for several years, introduced rain barrels and green bins, and started a community garden that provides produce for the neighbourhood. St. Cuthbert also joined FCG's Energy Benchmarking program that tracks gas and electricity consumption.



2018 Special Projects

Renewing the Sacred Balance



Kevin Matthew Wong, performer/creator Heather Majaury, facilitator/academic Amy Smoke, water protectors and Broadleaf collaborators Vanessa Gray and Lindsay Beze Gray, and Julia Howman at The Registry Theatre.

Faith & the Common Good was proud to sponsor performances of Broadleaf Theatre's "The [Chemical Valley Project](#)", an innovative documentary-theatre performance telling the story of Aamjiwnaang First Nation's struggle against Canada's petrochemical industry.

The performances, held at the Registry Theatre In Kitchener (March 2018) and at the Parliament of the World's Religions in Toronto (November 2018), sparked conversations on Canadian environmental policy, environmental racism, treaty rights and Indigenous relations, as well as the current nature of Canadian identity and values.

Deep thanks to Broadleaf's Kevin Wong & Julia Howman, Divest Waterloo's Laura Hamilton and Indigenous Climate Action's Andrea Bastien for helping us make these performances possible.

Regeneration Works



Tafelmusik Orchestra at TSP. Photo by Gary Beecher

[Regeneration Works: Places of Faith](#) works with rural and urban places of faith to create community spaces that are both viable and successful.

In preparation for the launch of Regeneration Works, a variety of working models were explored to learn more about the mutual support [between arts and faith groups](#). From [Philadelphia](#), New York, and [Montreal](#) (with many thanks to the George Cedric Metcalf Charitable Foundation), these trips explored the ways in which arts groups are thriving within faith buildings and often in collaboration with faith communities.

Next step is to see the same practices here in Toronto supporting our community.

FCG in the News



Besides our monthly articles on our [blog](#), we have had much media coverage country-wide:

January 2018

Unity and resilience never mattered more: <http://bit.ly/2BJXB3p> (The Hamilton Spectator)

February 2018

Faith communities provide arts groups with much needed space:

<http://bit.ly/2kHox7Q> (National Trust for Canada)

April 2018

Building Resilience to Climate Change: <http://bit.ly/2ITtOTD> (Toronto Focus Magazine)

What does community resilience to climate change look like? Some new models to consider:

<http://bit.ly/2ITu9pn> (The Rabble)

Art as a Call to Social Justice Action: Faith Communities Commissioning of Works of Art:

<https://bit.ly/2GPE1li>

Church gym becomes microbrewery: April fools or prophetic utterance: <http://bit.ly/2kQO5cl> (News Scoop YYC)

Commonwealth Faith Leaders urge Governments to turn Climate 'words into action':

<http://bit.ly/2m2T21O> (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development)

May 2018

Anglican church wins top environmental award: <http://bit.ly/2ktoNAY> (Anglican Diocese Toronto)

What will be our legacy in 100 years? Possibility and next steps with regenerating places of faith workshop: <http://bit.ly/2kjTpVg> (News Scoop YYC)

July 2018

Sweeter Dreams After the Nightmare Before Christmas: Post-Ice Storm Capacity-building and Resilience: <http://bit.ly/2mnyJMW> (ResearchGate Publications)

New Eco Initiative Aims to Massively Reduce Church's Carbon Footprint: <http://bit.ly/2kH19RH> (General Council of the United Church)

August 2018

First Halton Interfaith Peace Camp in Oakville draws kids of many religions: <http://bit.ly/2mij1T4> (InsideHalton)

October 2018

Workshop delves into future of diocesan, Cathedral buildings: <http://bit.ly/2IUueJB> (The Anglican Diocese of Fredericton)

The Top Five Must-See Events at the Parliament of the World's Religions: <http://bit.ly/2klAMAI> (MNI Alive)

November 2018

CASE STUDY | Strengthening the Role of Faith-Based Organizations to Support Emergency Preparedness: <http://bit.ly/2kTkU8p> (Tamarack Institute)

Emergence #4: conditions to let things happen: <http://bit.ly/2knlrhx> (Great Lake Commons)

World's Largest Interfaith gathering begins in Toronto: <http://bit.ly/2mr5J71> (Nishkam Media Center)

The Future of Toronto: <http://bit.ly/2mr5K1Z> (West End Phoenix)

December 2018

Citizens & Emergency Preparedness CoP Dec 6 2018: <http://bit.ly/2ktqkXK> (Youtube)

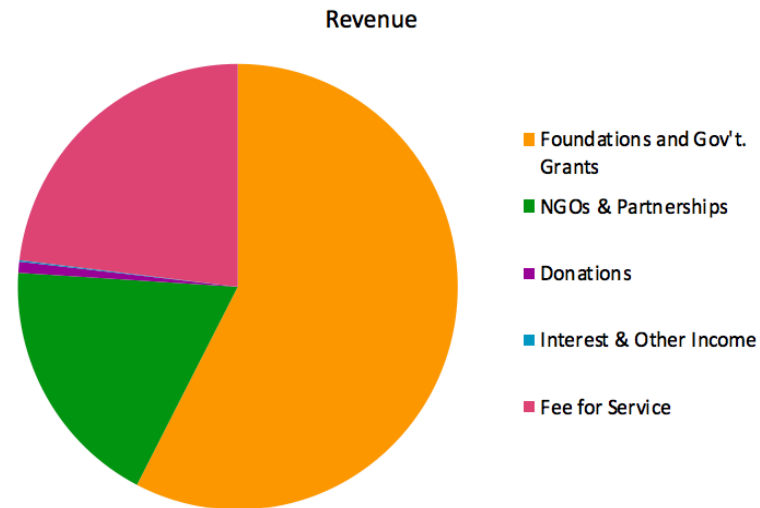
The Parliament of the World's Religions is the closest thing we have to an International Interfaith Movement: <http://bit.ly/2kTA1Pk> (Religion & Politics)



Finance

Revenue

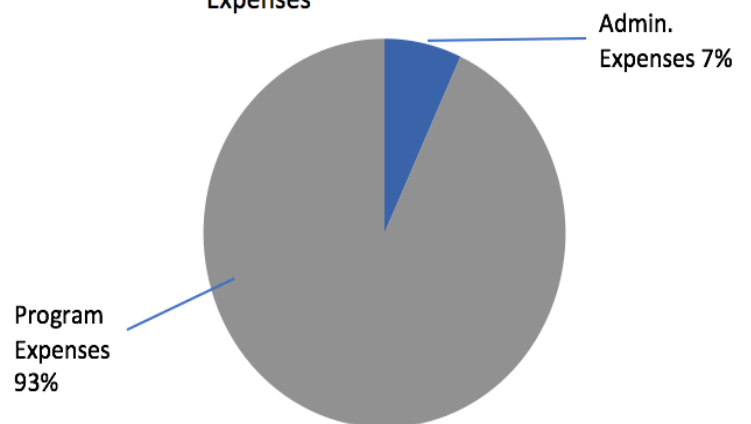
Foundation and Government Grants	205,323
NGOs and Partnerships	65,712
Fee for Service	82,334
Donations	2,845
Other Income	378
Total Revenue	356,592



Program Expenses

Program Salaries	87,652
Program Costs	214,453
Green Audits	6,898
Travel	7,215
Communications	7,295
Total Program Costs	323,513

Expenses



Administration Expenses

Admin Salaries	13,810
Rent and Insurance	4,567
Telecommunications	2,057
Professional Fees	5,434
Total Admin Costs	25,868

Total Expenses | 349,381

Net Assets | 64,796

Faith & the Common Good

FCG's accomplishments are made possible due to the passion, hard work, and talent of its terrific team of staff, animators, board members, and volunteers in many cities and regions. We can't list everyone here, but our deep thanks to all!

Bios for the team can be found on our [website](#)



2018 Board of Directors

Randal Goodfellow (Chair), LoriAnn Girvan, Chris Hrynkow, David MacDonald, David McAuley, Bill Phipps, Garth Schmalenburg, Azim Shamshiev, Janet Speth, Tom Urbaniak

Make a Donation

Online via Faith & the Common Good's Canada Helps webpage

<https://www.faithcommongood.org/donate>

By cheque, made payable to Faith & the Common Good, @ Centre for Social Innovation, 192 Spadina Ave, Suite 300, Toronto, ON M5T 2C2 CANADA

Faith & the Common Good is a registered charity. All donations are eligible for a tax receipt. (charity registration # 82827 6121 RR0001)

Contact Us and Get Involved

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www.faithcommongood.org