



Interfaith
Partners for the
CHESAPEAKE



STRATEGIC PLAN

2026-2028



Dear Friend,

It is my distinct honor and pleasure to introduce you to IPC's new 2026-2028 Strategic Plan. As we embarked on our 15th Anniversary in 2025, our top priority was to focus on strengthening our existing footprint in bringing interfaith communities together to restore the Chesapeake Bay.

Faith communities around the world are becoming increasingly concerned about the crisis our habitats are facing due to climate change. Environmental experts are also pointing to the potential that interfaith communities provide in addressing environmental challenges. It is now critical for us to consider the ethical dimensions of climate change.

It is important to come together to intentionally communicate with diverse interfaith communities about ecosystem challenges. Over the past decade, IPC's pioneer OneWater Partnership program has effectively used a collaborative model to connect interfaith communities with solutions to the environmental risks our habitats are facing in the Chesapeake Bay. One project at a time, we have brought together interfaith communities for a collective impact to address climate change and do their part for restoration and conservation.

Our moral values often come from our culture, beliefs, and faith systems. After all, ecological crises are not only economic, political, or social, but also spiritual in nature. IPC's mission and values are aligned to caring for the Earth, protecting vulnerable species, following a sustainable lifestyle, and building a healthy habitat for future generations. In the coming years, as we promise to deepen and widen our impact locally, we hope to continue to play a critical role in connecting interfaith communities and bringing them solutions to address the ecological crisis of the Chesapeake Bay.

Today, IPC needs your support as we continue to build a future of hope, ensuring a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive environmental movement. Join us in supporting and bringing together diverse interfaith communities in a collaborative model. I encourage you to connect with us and make a direct local impact, working hands-on with us, to provide for underserved interfaith communities to build healthy habitats in our Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Sincerely,

Meenal Harankhedkar,
Executive Director

“ From its farthest headwaters to the middle of the Bay itself, this corner of Creation we call the Chesapeake is a divine gift for which we are called to exert great care. It reminds us we are kin to all forms of life. It requires our steadfast stewardship. And it demands that we make common cause with one another to turn our love for this place into daily action. May this strategic plan guide us toward that end.”

— Mark Wright, IPC Board Chair



OUR VISION

A Chesapeake ecosystem where Creation thrives and faith communities live out their call to care for our shared watershed.

OUR MISSION

IPC inspires and equips faith communities to honor, protect, and restore the Chesapeake's lands and waters.

“THE WATERS ARE THE FOUNDATION OF ALL THIS UNIVERSE.” ~ RIG VEDA 10.129



OUR VALUES

RESPECT

We honor Creation and each other as we safeguard clean water for current and future generations.

INTEGRITY

We steward resources responsibly and follow through on our commitments to each other and Creation care.

INCLUSION

We build authentic relationships across faiths, races, and traditions, working together for the common good. We celebrate one another, and acknowledge our unique gifts, strengths, and skills.

JUSTICE

We work for a healthy and resilient Chesapeake. We ensure that every person and community connected to the Chesapeake has a fair opportunity to live, grow, and thrive.

STEWARDSHIP

With hope, courage, and intentionality, we equip communities of faith to care for Creation and protect our common home.

“AND ALLAH HAS SENT DOWN THE WATER FROM THE SKY AND THERE WITH GIVES LIFE TO THE EARTH...” ~ QURAN 24:45



Results: Communities and people of faith in the Chesapeake watershed are engaged in restoring local waterways and building lasting connections to Creation. The Chesapeake Bay and its lands and waters are healthy, resilient, and sustainable.



UPLIFT: ELEVATE FAITH-BASED VOICES AND LEADERSHIP

STRATEGIES

- Strengthen the capacity of faith leaders to champion Creation care.
- Build understanding of interfaith traditions' approach to Creation care.
- Elevate faith voices in policy, science, and community conversations.
- Engage emerging leaders including young adults.
- Develop green team leadership across collaborative interfaith networks.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES



Number of watershed restoration literacy training programs



Increased engagement on communications platforms



Number of resources provided to green team members



Number of green team mentors with capacity building tools



Number of diverse faith traditions engaged with stewardship of the Bay

BUILD: STRENGTHEN ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY FOR GROWTH AND SUSTAINABILITY

STRATEGIES

- Invest in staff development and support, including equitable compensation.
- Nurture a positive and inclusive team culture to attract and retain staff and board talent.
- Build expertise in interfaith engagement.
- Diversify funding sources and expand supporter base.
- Leverage user-friendly technology to build effectiveness and efficiency.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES



Number of staff and board engaged in development and networking opportunities



Number of diverse funding sources



Increase efficiency of data management systems



Increase research and surveys to engage new audiences



High percentage of staff, board, and audience report satisfaction

RESTORE: EXPAND THE IMPACT OF INTERFAITH PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNITY ACTION

STRATEGIES

- Broaden and deepen the environmental impact of faith communities across the Chesapeake watershed.
- Strengthen relationships with regional faith network leaders and diverse partner organizations.
- Expand engagement with youth, volunteers, and congregations.
- Build connections with academic, scientific, and agricultural communities.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES



Number of stormwater practices installed



Number of trees planted and habitats restored



Number of diverse and sustainable partnerships



Number of youth engaged with green teams



Number of faith communities engaged in diverse restoration programs

JOIN US

Across the Chesapeake region, more than 19,000 congregations hold the potential to transform faith into action for Creation care. *Imagine the potential if we all come together to heal our land and waters.*

Your support enables Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake to equip faith leaders with the funding, training, tools, and collaboration needed to restore their grounds and renew their neighborhoods — one project at a time.

BECOME A MEMBER and discover how together we can lead bold efforts to heal the land, protect our waters, and care for Creation.

Wherever you are on your journey of faith, your work and support is needed, valued, and invited by IPC.

**“THERE IS A RIVER WHOSE STREAMS
MAKE GLAD THE CITY OF GOD,
THE HOLY PLACE WHERE THE MOST
HIGH DWELLS.” ~ PSALM 46:4**



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OUR STAFF

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Thank you to the Chesapeake Bay Trust and Due East Partners for their support.

**“...GOD INSTRUCTED MOSES TO STRIKE A ROCK TO BRING FORTH WATER,
SHOWING THAT WATER IS THE SOURCE OF DIVINE SUSTENANCE” ~ EXODUS 17:6**



Interfaith
Partners for the
CHESAPEAKE

LEARN MORE AT
InterfaithChesapeake.org

