

# ONE WAKE



# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

[www.onewake.org](http://www.onewake.org)

# WHO WE ARE

ONE Wake is a strictly non-partisan, multi-racial, multi-issue group of 47 dues paying member institutions: religious congregations, associations, and other non-profits in the Wake County area representing more than 50,000 residents.

We marshal the two universal sources of power, organized people and organized money, so that our members can collaborate with or confront powerful institutions in the governmental and private sectors.

We are non-ideological and pragmatic, building working relationships based on shared interests, across many of the lines that divide individuals and institutions. We are also strictly non-partisan, not favoring or supporting any party, but fiercely favoring and supporting those issues and strategies that bring more dignity and greater opportunity to an every-widening circle of society.

We challenge people to imagine the change they can accomplish, connect individuals and organizations to multiply their power, and organize people by the thousands to make their voices heard. We set high goals, design innovative strategies, and stick with issues until they are fully addressed. Our time frame is not the market cycle or the news cycle or the election cycle, but the generational cycle of families and institutions.



# MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

Antioch Bible Fellowship  
Baptist Grove Church  
Beth Shalom  
Cary First Christian Church  
Cary Presbyterian Church  
The Caring Place  
Christ the King Lutheran Church  
Church of the Nativity  
Common Thread Church  
Covenant Christian Church  
Dorcas Ministries  
Eastern Wake Ministers Alliance  
Ekklesia  
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd  
First UMC Cary  
Friendship Chapel Baptist Church  
The Fountain of Raleigh Fellowship  
Good Shepherd United Church of Christ  
Greenwood Forest Baptist Church  
Hayes Barton UMC  
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
Iglesia Fiesta Cristiana

Islamic Association of Raleigh  
Juniper Level MBC  
Kirk of Kildaire Presbyterian Church  
Las Americas R2W Association  
Macedonia New Life  
Macedonia UMC  
Pleasant Grove Church - Cary  
Pullen Memorial Baptist Church  
Raleigh First Baptist Church  
Raleigh Mennonite Church  
Raleigh Vineyard  
Saint Francis UMC  
Southeast Raleigh Table  
St. Ambrose Episcopal Church  
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
Tapestry Church  
Temple Beth Or  
UU Fellowship of Raleigh / Yavneh  
Watts Chapel MBC  
White Plains UMC



*Above: candidates for Cary Town Council (left), and Zebulon Board of Commissioners (right) publicly commit to support community-led solutions developed by ONE Wake leaders*

# 2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**137**

small group conversations  
("listening sessions")  
organized by ONE Wake  
leaders to identify the top  
pressures facing families  
across Wake County  
(March-May)

**312**

leaders attended an  
internal assembly and  
ratified three new priorities  
for ONE Wake's agenda  
that reflect the most  
commonly felt concerns  
surfaced during our  
listening campaign (June)

**2,000**

members of ONE Wake institutions and surrounding  
communities engaged in a grassroots listening  
campaign that led to the adoption of our new agenda  
(March - June)

**55**

Chatham Estates  
residents and ONE Wake  
supporters canvassed  
over 100 households at  
the Chatham Estates  
mobile home community  
to identify their neighbors  
self-interest (July)

**30**

ONE Wake leaders,  
elected officials, and key  
staff from the County  
Manager's office and the  
Town of Cary attended a  
two day long inter-city tour  
of Nehemiah housing in  
East Brooklyn (August)



**600+**

members of ONE Wake Cary institutions turned out for the largest Town Council candidate assembly in recent history to win commitments for affordable housing and assistance for Chatham Estates residents (September)

**500**

voters contacted in one night by 21 ONE Wake leaders during a non-partisan phone bank to educate voters impacted by the new Voter ID law (September)

**\$13 MILLION**

total value of commitments won by ONE Wake from candidates for Cary Town Council and Zebulon Board of Commissioners (September, October)

**100+**

leaders attended ONE Wake's non-partisan assembly with every candidate for Zebulon Board of Commissioners to win commitments to continue and expand the SmartRide microtransit program (October)

**107**

leaders from six ONE Wake member institutions met at Watts Chapel Missionary Baptist Church to shape a vision to create generational wealth through at-scale affordable home ownership across Wake County (November)

# LISTENING CAMPAIGN

On March 9, ONE Wake leaders attended training to lead a grassroots listening campaign with a goal to speak with over 2,000 members of their communities to surface the top pressures facing families across Wake County.

These leaders went on to organize 137 small group conversations, culminating in a June internal assembly attended by 312 ONE Wake leaders who reviewed the results and voted on three new priorities that reflected the most commonly felt concerns: affordable housing, mental health, and public transportation.

Following the June assembly, over 120 volunteer leaders formed six “Research Action Teams” to shape our new, broad priorities into tangible, winnable issue campaigns.



*Above: ONE Wake members vote for our new priorities*

*Right: listening sessions hosted at Pleasant Grove Church in Cary and Baptist Grove Church in Raleigh*



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# CARY CANDIDATE ASSEMBLY

On September 18, 600 members of ONE Wake institutions and neighborhoods across Cary turned out for a strictly non-partisan assembly with candidates for Cary Town Council. Together we called on candidates to work with us to address the pending displacement of Chatham Estates mobile home park residents. ONE Wake leaders also asked candidates whether they would support a number of community-led solutions to support the construction of new affordable housing in town.

At the heart of the assembly was the moving testimony and strong leadership from residents of Chatham Estates and business owners at the adjacent Chatham Square shopping center, who delivered 130 members of their community to call on the candidates to work with them to ensure that all displaced households and businesses are fully compensated for their losses due to the pending redevelopment of the property.

All candidates present said YES! and committed to support each community-led solution presented to them during the assembly. This assembly was the culmination of months of listening this spring that engaged hundreds of Cary residents to identify the top problems in their communities, and thorough research over the summer to turn these problems into tangible, winnable issues.

*Above right: hundreds of members of ONE Wake institutions in Cary listen to Town Council candidates pledge support for our community-led solutions*

*Below right: Edith Liborio, Chatham Square business owner, shares testimony about the impact of the pending sale of the community*









# ZEBULON CANDIDATE ASSEMBLY

On October 17, over 100 ONE Wake members and Zebulon residents attended a strictly non-partisan assembly at Wakefield Missionary Baptist Church led by leaders of the Eastern Ministerial Alliance (a ONE Wake founding member).

In attendance were all six candidates for the Zebulon Board of Commissioners, as well as District 1 Wake County Commissioner Donald Mial.

At stake was the future of the popular micro-transit SmartRide program that delivered 13,000 rides for low income residents in the last fiscal year (over 7,000 were Zebulon riders), as well as larger questions over how the Wake Transit Plan can more equitably distribute hundreds of millions in funding to under-served communities.

During the assembly, each candidate for Zebulon Board of Commissioners was asked whether they would champion the continuation and expansion of the SmartRide program. Every candidate said YES!

*Above left: 100+ Zebulon residents and ONE Wake supporters meet with all candidates for Zebulon Town Board of Commissioners*

*Below left: Zebulon Board of Commissioner candidates pledge support for community-led solutions*



# INTER-CITY TRIP

In August, over 30 ONE Wake leaders, elected officials, and key staff from the County Manager's office and the Town of Cary attended a two day long tour of Nehemiah housing in Brooklyn: a 40-year long power fight led by our sister organization East Brooklyn Congregations that has created 6,500 affordable homes and generated \$1.5 billion in equity for first time homebuyers.

Our trip included a lengthy walking tour of the Spring Creek neighborhood led by staff from Nehemiah HDFC, the development arm behind this remarkable accomplishment, and visits with homeowners who graciously allowed our group to tour their homes.

Following the tour, ONE Wake leaders strategized with top EBC leaders and organizers on how this vision could shape how we address the urgent crisis of affordable housing and displacement in Wake County.

ONE Wake clergy and lay leaders have continued to meet since the inter-city trip, organizing a series of events that have engaged more than 20 clergy and over 100 lay leaders to shape an ambitious strategy to build affordable homeownership opportunities at-scale across Wake County.

*Left: ONE Wake leaders, County Commissioners, and housing staff tour the Nehemiah Spring Creek development in East Brooklyn*





*Top: neighborhood meeting at the Chatham Estates Mobile Home Community;  
Bottom: 100+ leaders gather to shape a strategy to build affordable homeownership at scale*



# RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERSHIP

ONE Wake's power comes from our broad base of member institutions, including churches, mosques, synagogues, non-profits, and neighborhood associations. ONE Wake also regularly partners with non-member groups on issues of shared interest.

Members have committed to:

- 1) send leaders to organizing training;
- 2) form a core team of leaders capable of identifying the top concerns and interests of their membership; and
- 3) initiate public action through ONE Wake to resolve those concerns.

Members have also committed to pay annual dues equivalent to 1% operating budget (Floor: \$2,500, Ceiling: \$15,000).

# FINANCES

ONE Wake is funded by dues from member institutions, individual donations, and private foundations. ONE Wake does not accept government funds so we can remain autonomous and politically independent.

ONE Wake engages in an annual audit performed by an outside firm. Financials are available for members' review upon request.

