

Members

*Asbury United
Methodist*

Bon Air Presbyterian

*Bon Air United
Methodist*

*Cathedral of the Sacred
Heart Catholic*

*Church of the Redeemer
Catholic*

Common Table

Congregation Or Ami

Congregation Or Atid

Ebenezer Baptist

*Faith Community
Baptist*

*First Congregational
Christian Church of
Christ*

First Presbyterian

*First Unitarian
Universalist*

Holy Rosary Catholic

Mt. Carmel Baptist

New Light Baptist

*Our Lady of Lourdes
Catholic*

*Sacred Heart
Catholic*

Salisbury Presbyterian

Second Baptist

Seventh Street Christian

*Southminster
Presbyterian*

St. Edward Catholic

St. Elizabeth Catholic

St. John's Episcopal

St. Paul's Episcopal

Third Street Bethel AME

*Three Chopt
Presbyterian*

*Union Presbyterian
Seminary*

*Unitarian Universalist
Community*



office@risrichmond.org
www.risrichmond.org

What is RISC?

RISC – Richmonders Involved to Strengthen Our Communities – is an organization made up of congregations from throughout Richmond, Henrico, Chesterfield and Hanover. Founded in 2002, we use the power of large numbers of organized people to solve critical community problems. We are not a direct service provider, rather we are a grassroots, direct action, multi-issue organization.

How does RISC work?

RISC follows a yearly process that focuses on building and strengthening a Justice Ministry (Rodef Tzedek) Network at each member congregation. In the Fall, Team Leaders host House Meetings to discuss community problems and engage participants as Network Members. From November through March, Issue Committees are formed to conduct research into the problems, and ultimately come up with specific, winnable solutions. The Nehemiah Action is held in the Spring, where thousands gather to ask public officials to implement these solutions. After the Nehemiah Action, leaders follow up on the commitments made at the Action, and Network Members are invited to invest in RISC.

Justice Ministry (Rodef Tzedek) Network Members Commit to the Following:

- 1) Bring at least 3 people to the NEHEMIAH ACTION**
- 2) Attend the 4 RISC Assemblies of the year –**
The Community Problems Assembly (November 9, 2026)
The Rally (March 16, 2027)
The Nehemiah Action (April 13, 2027)
The Justice Ministry Celebration (June 7, 2027)
- 3) Consider an investment of \$200 or more in justice ministry**

Our Vision for Justice Ministry

Micah 6:8 lays out a clear calling for God's people: to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.

We believe that doing justice is a core expression of our faith traditions—one that too often goes overlooked. Our vision is to strengthen Justice Ministries (Rodef Tzedek) within each congregation so that the pursuit of justice becomes an integral part of congregational life and culture.

In 2026, 2,144 people turned out for our Nehemiah Action. Our goal is to grow that number to 3,000 by 2029. By building the power of organized people, we believe we can transform the Richmond area and help ensure that justice is realized for all.

What is RISC currently working on?

MENTAL HEALTH

In Fall 2025, hundreds of RISC members shared stories of difficulty accessing mental health care, leading more than 500 members at our October Community Problems Assembly to vote to take action. Research showed that access to care for children in Chesterfield was particularly challenging: one in four children experiences a mental, emotional, or behavioral health issue, while nationally families make an average of 60 calls to secure an appointment.

Further research led us to identify mental health navigation tools as the solution. In communities where one such tool has been implemented, families secure appointments in an average of 11 days. At our Action Assembly, Chesterfield Supervisor Jessica Schneider committed to championing implementation of such a tool.

We are meeting with Board Chair Mark Miller on October 29, 2026, to advance the campaign.

What has RISC recently won, that we are *monitoring*?

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

In 2020, we determined that at least \$10 million annually was needed for the city's Affordable Housing Trust Fund. In 2021, we won an ordinance creating a dedicated funding stream, but the city administration failed to implement it. After years of building our power - from 800 people at our 2022 Action to more than 2,200 in 2025 - we worked with City Councilmembers in Spring 2026 to pass a new law dedicating 2.5% of real estate taxes to the Trust Fund. This generated \$11.7 million in its first year, with \$63 million committed over five years.

Our work now is to monitor the expenditure of these funds and ensure they are used to build hundreds more affordable homes for the low-income residents of Richmond who need it most.

GUN VIOLENCE

In 2020, we began calling on city leaders to implement the proven, evidence-based Gun Violence Reduction Strategy (GVRS). GVRS has remarkable results cutting homicides and shootings in dozens of cities; in Baltimore, for example, it has helped drive the lowest homicide rate in 50 years.

As a result of the power we built since we first began this campaign, Mayor Avula made good on his commitment to implement this program in early 2026. The city is in the initial stages of implementation, and projects that the Problem Analysis (the first stage) will be complete by late this calendar year.

Our work now takes the form of ensuring quality implementation and tracking the results we expect to see – significantly fewer shootings and homicides.

What has RISC won in recent years?

- ✓ **100 mobile homes have been repaired** across Richmond's Southside as a result of the **\$1.6 million** we won between 2022 and 2024.
- ✓ **935 units of affordable housing** were developed or preserved between 2015 and 2021, using funds from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund we got the City to fund.
- ✓ **Almost 3,000 families** have been able to stay in their homes, as the result of a **\$6 million allocation to emergency rental assistance** we were able to get Mayor Stoney to make in the summer of 2020.
- ✓ Approximately **500 families a year** receive financial assistance and counseling, and keep an eviction off their record, through the **Eviction Diversion Program** we won in 2019.
- ✓ **Approximately 500** low-income, job seekers have completed the **VCU Pathways Program** we won (a pipeline to healthcare careers for at risk youth), that started in June of 2018.