



San Francisco Interfaith Council

*Celebrating our diverse faiths & spiritual traditions
Bringing people together to build understanding
Serving our community*

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Accomplishments and Plans of the San Francisco Interfaith Council

2017 – 2018

CONVENING, COMMUNICATING, AND ADVOCACY

The San Francisco Interfaith Council's work centers on civil rights, homelessness, housing affordability, and disaster preparedness. The SFIC convenes and amplifies the voice of our city's faith-based community on these important issues.

OUR MISSION

History teaches us that many of the world's conflicts are rooted in religious strife. Founded in 1988, the San Francisco Interfaith Council (SFIC) seeks to counter this historical trend by "*Celebrating our diverse faiths and spiritual traditions, bringing people together to build understanding and serving our community.*"

WHO WE SERVE

We count as our constituents the 800 congregations in the City of San Francisco, their respective judicatories, sectarian educational and healthcare institutions, and the faith-based social service agencies that provide the social safety net for our most vulnerable residents.

OUR WORK

During this time of social change in San Francisco, civic leaders and the public view the SFIC as the "go-to" organization for mobilizing our City's religious communities. Congregations and faith-based agencies turn to us for resources, referral and representation. Our robust relationships and communications network of over 4,000 e-subscribers allow the SFIC to bring together and mobilize San Francisco's faith-based community to create an effective, combined force for service and issues of public policy, so that we may accomplish together what no single congregation can alone.

ONGOING PROGRAMS

Monthly Breakfast

For over 15 years the SFIC has hosted a free public interfaith breakfast on the second Thursday of each month at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in San Francisco where 100 congregational and lay leaders network and share a meal. Speakers from a variety of City departments, civic agencies, NGOs and philanthropic programs discuss their important work, ask faith communities to help spread the word, and offer volunteer opportunities for congregants. An individual gives a "meditation" from his or her religious tradition, and another presents a personal "faith journey."

Navigation Center

The SFIC facilitated a gift of \$3 million to set up and operate the new Navigation Center at 1950 Mission Street, a pioneering approach to combating homelessness. The Center is unique among homeless shelters in the City in allowing homeless adults to maintain existing relationships. The Center accommodates couples, friends, even entire homeless encampments at once, permitting people to stay with their community, keep their pets, and bring along their belongings. This approach recognizes the important role that social and emotional connections play in recovery.

The Navigation Center provides comprehensive services. It provides beds, showers and meals at one location where staff are on hand 24/7 to assess the clients' needs for health care, substance abuse and mental health treatment; help them access benefits; and move them expeditiously into stable housing and rehabilitation programs, or reunite them with their families through the successful Homeward Bound program. One million is set aside for leasing Single Room Occupancy (SRO) units, where clients will move from the Navigation Center and continue to receive support services. The Navigation Center shelters up to 75 clients who stay three to ten days before moving to housing or residential treatment.

Many agencies contribute to the Center's operation. Episcopal Community Services is the lead on-site service provider, assisted by the newly formed Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing, Department of Public Health, Project Homeless Connect and others. The Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing takes the lead on SRO master leasing. Other key partners are the Mayor's Office, the Mayor's Office of Housing, the Planning Department, the Department of Building Inspection, the Department of Animal Care and Control, Recreation and Parks Department, and Adult Probation.

The Navigation Center is a pilot program designed to operate for 18 months or less. The City plans to develop affordable housing on the site, supporting Mayor Lee's goal of building or rehabilitating 30,000 homes over six years, with half for low and middle-income San Francisco residents.

The overwhelming success of this pilot has had significant outcomes. Appreciating the inter-disciplinary collaboration inherent in the design of the Navigation Center model, more specifically the streamlining of services to clients, Mayor Lee subsequently established the new Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing. Additionally, the Navigation Center concept quickly became a model for the nation and was so embraced by city government that it catalyzed its replication in numerous neighborhoods.

San Francisco Interfaith Winter Shelter

Entering our 29th year, the SFIC has sponsored and coordinated an Interfaith Winter Shelter for the homeless. This shelter provides a hot, nutritious dinner, breakfast and a safe, warm overnight rest for some 100 homeless men every night from the Sunday before Thanksgiving through the end of February. The SFIC coordinates four host-site congregations, 50 meal-providing congregations, shelter staff from Episcopal Community Services and the San Francisco Night Ministry, with input from the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing.

At the request of the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing the Interfaith Winter Shelter was able to remain open through the end of March 2017. Extending last year's shelter was made possible, in large part, thanks to our partners at Episcopal Community Services and congregations who volunteered to prepare and serve meals.

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Observance and Interfaith Service

For seven years the SFIC has organized the City's annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day observance, including a popular march and interfaith service. The march proceeds from the Caltrain terminal over the Lefty O'Doul Bridge to Yerba Buena Gardens (YBG), bringing together "freedom riders" from the South Bay and others from the wider Bay Area. This march pays tribute to the 1965 crossing made by Dr. King over the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama. Once at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial at YBG, a large crowd participates in the outdoor interfaith service organized by the SFIC to celebrate Dr. King's legacy. Key religious and civic leaders address the attendees.

The theme highlighted at last year's Interfaith Prayer Service was "Today's Youth ... Tomorrow's Leaders." Young people of diverse religious, ethnic and racial backgrounds were selected to be chief participants in the service. In addition, special recognition was paid to Carletta Jackson-Lane, J.D., Executive Director of Sojourner Truth Foster Family Service Agency, Mattie Scott, Founder and Executive Director of Healing 4 Our Families & Our Nation, and Elizabeth Torres, Administrative Advisor for Healing 4 Our Families & Our Nation. Program may be viewed at: <https://goo.gl/ezieRw>

Implicit Bias for Congregation Leaders

On November 4, 2016 congregation leaders attended a highly interactive course exploring emerging research in neuroscience, leadership and decision-making. Brain imaging studies were used to explain how we lead in faith communities and build relationships across boundaries. The course pinpointed the areas where behaviors, attitudes, and practices can be affected by unconscious processes and subtleties. The course reviewed how unconscious decision-making can affect assessments of character, morality, warmth, authenticity, intelligence, threat, and competence. Participants learned how empathizing with those from other communities, collaborating with congregants, and implementing new practices can all be helped or hurt by conditioned dispositions. The course identified ways to increase fairness guided by science.

SFIC Core Mission of Disaster Preparedness

- **Biennial Disaster Preparedness Workshop for Congregations**

In May 2016 at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption, the SFIC hosted the 6th Biennial Disaster Preparedness Workshop for Congregations entitled "*Crisis to Resilience: Congregations Understanding and Responding to Climate Change Impacts.*" Our partners in this event were the American Red Cross Bay Area Chapter, Archdiocese of San Francisco, California Interfaith Power & Light, Neighborhood Empowerment Network, SF CARD (Community Agencies Responding to Disaster), SF Department of Emergency Management, SF Department of Public Health, SF Human Services Agency, The Salvation Army, and The San Francisco Foundation. Program may be viewed at: <https://goo.gl/DokvNp>

SFIC Executive Director Michael Pappas was invited to make a presentation on the significance and role of communities of faith in the midst of disaster at the Epicenter 2017 Summit, an interactive and experiential learning environment with a unique focus on real world scenarios. He also presented at the San Francisco Joint Counter Terrorism Awareness Workshop in July 2016, a nationwide initiative designed to improve the ability of local jurisdictions to prepare for, protect against, and respond to terrorist attacks.

In the aftermath of the devastation caused in Texas by Hurricane Harvey on August 26, 2017, the SFIC issued an email communiqué encouraging houses of worship to make an offering to support the critical and time sensitive on-the-

ground aid work being undertaken, by way of the comprehensive list of humanitarian aid/relief NGOs resources link on the SFIC website. <http://www.sfinterfaithcouncil.org/humanitarian-aid>

- **SFIC's Role in Responding to Extreme Heat Warning (September 1-3, 2017)**

Anticipating the extreme heat warning forecasted by the National Weather Service over the weekend of September 1-3, 2017, the Emergency Preparedness and Response Branch of the San Francisco Department of Public Health, called upon the SFIC to reach out to its vast constituency to offer key health precautions and encourage congregation leaders to make their houses of worship accessible for those needing respite from the heat. Additionally, at the request of the coordinator for Volunteer Organizations Assisting in Disaster (VOAD), the SFIC facilitated a time-sensitive connection which enabled the Jewish Community Center of San Francisco to authorize and allow its facility to be listed among key strategic cooling stations in the official City advisory.

WinterFaith Shelter Walk

Each year the SFIC hosts a "walk against hunger" around Lake Merced. Proceeds from the walk are used to defray the cost of operating the Interfaith Winter Shelter. Last year's Walk was scheduled for October 30, 2016 but was cancelled due to inclement weather and safety concerns for our walkers. Nonetheless, sponsorships and pledges raised over \$18,000 for the shelter. The inclement weather was a powerful reminder of conditions faced by the homeless on our streets and our duty to shelter and feed them.

It was decided by both the Planning Committee in concert with the SFIC Board of Directors that the next WinterFaith Shelter Walk should be scheduled for Sunday, April 22, 2018.

Annual "Bike to Worship" Week

The SFIC partners with the SF Bicycle Coalition to promote "*Bike to Worship*," an opportunity that encourages congregants to pedal to their worship services. Employing its large communications network, the SFIC helps to spread the word, share the free "BIKE TO WORSHIP Toolkit," and enlist registrants. Once again, the SF Bicycle Coalition and Walk San Francisco (an organization whose focus is pedestrian safety) joined forces for "*Walk & Bike to Worship*" Week from May 27 – June 4, 2017. It was an enormous success with 28 congregations participating and included the "3rd Annual Interfaith Ride."

Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast

Our major event of the year is the SFIC Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast, attended by 400 people on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. Each year we shine the spotlight on a significant contribution made by the faith community to San Francisco. At the milestone 20th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast on November 21, 2017 the theme focused on "*Communities of Faith Nurturing Education in our City*." We honored philanthropist Clint Reilly for his efforts in pioneering the "Bay Scholars" program that enables promising low-income students to have access to and flourish in our City's faith-based high schools. We also recognized and honored the significant role communities of faith continue to play in offering educational opportunities to our City's young people. Program may be viewed at: <https://goo.gl/MseQZr>

Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Day Service

Each year, the SFIC sponsors San Francisco's only Interfaith Thanksgiving Day Service which brings together people of diverse faiths for prayer and thanksgiving. The 13th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Day Service on Thursday, November 23, 2017 was hosted by Old First Presbyterian Church. The offering collected at this service is used to offset the costs of the Interfaith Winter Shelter. Program may be viewed at: <https://goo.gl/RdWzJ3>

Annual Interfaith World AIDS Day Service

This year's service, *"From Losses to Blessings,"* was held on Sunday, December 3, 2017 at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav and was organized by Calvary Presbyterian Church, Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, Old First Presbyterian Church, and the SFIC. The keynote speaker was Dr. Charles Garfield, Founder of The Shanti Project.

The Vigil: Interfaith Annual Homeless Persons Memorial

Every December, collaborating with the SF Night Ministry, the SFIC hosts the *"The Vigil: Interfaith Annual Homeless Persons Memorial"* at the Civic Center. Religious leaders of different faiths offer prayers for the homeless who have died during the past year, and their names are read. This year's memorial service will take place on Thursday evening, December 21, 2017 at the Civic Center Plaza.

Convener of Faith-Based Social Service Agencies ("CEO Roundtable")

For the past eight years, the SFIC has regularly convened the leaders of the 15 major faith-based agencies to provide a forum to address issues of common concern. The SFIC promotes the agencies' collective impact and advocates on their behalf to increase the visibility of the economic challenges faced by non-profits and their clients. Since 2009 the CEO Roundtable has responded with a significant unified voice to issues ranging from dramatic budget cuts and their impact on programs and staff, to San Francisco's affordability crisis that prompted the displacement of numerous constituent agencies. Currently, focus is being placed on the attraction and retention of staff in light of shrinking availability and soaring housing costs. As well, the Roundtable is developing a strategic response to the significant shift in federal policy priorities and the threat of funding cuts. None of this work could be accomplished by any single agency. Its continued impact has established the CEO Roundtable as a major stakeholder at policy-making tables. For a list of the faith-based agencies please visit: <http://www.sfinterfaithcouncil.org/social-service-agencies>

Crisis Response Communications

It has been the ongoing practice of the SFIC to issue statements, either on behalf of the SFIC Board of Directors or in collaboration with key faith leaders, on occasions when extremists act violently in the name of religion. In chronological order from the most current, the SFIC has issued the following statements. Access to the complete texts is available by visiting: <http://www.sfinterfaithcouncil.org/social-justice-statements>

- SFIC Stands with our Partner, the Brady Center, to Respond to Las Vegas Shootings (10/4/2017)
- Communities of Faith Respond to DACA Decision (9/11/2017)
- SF Faith Leaders Stand United Against Hate in Charlottesville and Our Backyard (8/15/2017)
- Bay Area Muslims Condemn Attacks on Coptic Christians SF Chronicle Op Ed (4/17/2017)
- SF Religious Leaders Denounce Massacre of Coptic Christians (4/11/2017)
- A Message from SFIC Founder and Former Chair Rita R. Semel (2/27/2017)
- SFIC Joins Interfaith Partners Nationwide in Support of Our Muslim Neighbors (1/27/2017)
- SFIC Denounces Bomb Threats at Bay Area Jewish Schools (1/19/2017)
- SF Bay Area Faith Leaders Denounce Incidents of Hate Targeting Religion (12/1/2016)
- SFIC Statement of Support for Pacifica Institute (10/13/2016)
- All Lives Are Precious and Irreplaceable (7/8/2016)
- SF Communities of Faith Mourn Victims of Istanbul Terrorist Attack (6/30/2016)
- Communities of Faith Issue Statements in the Aftermath of the 6/12/2016 Orlando Massacre (6/22/2016)
- SF Communities of Faith Share in Grief of Orlando Massacre (6/13/2016)
- SF Faith Leaders Denounce Anti-Muslim Hate Speech (12/11/2015)
- Church Desecration Denounced by Coalition of SF Faith Groups (9/2/2015)
- SF Faith Leaders Respond to Racist Acts of Violence and Destruction (7/2/2015)
- SFIC Issues Social Justice Statement (3/12/2015)
- SFIC Condemns Vicious Anti-Muslim Bus Ads (10/16/2014)
- SFIC and Religious Leaders Speak Out Against ISIS Religious Persecution (9/17/2014)

In the aftermath of the terrorist attacks at the *Charlie Hebdo* magazine and anti-semitic killings in Paris, the SFIC, Jewish Community Relations Council, and Islamic Networks Group (ING) sent an interfaith delegation to the Consul General of France in San Francisco, to express concern and offer support from San Francisco's diverse faith communities.

Following the terrorist attacks in Paris in November 2015, the SFIC leadership participated in a moving interfaith service for peace at Calvary Presbyterian Church.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

San Francisco Religious Leaders Mourn the Death of Mayor Edwin M. Lee

On December 12, 2017 The SFIC issued a statement on behalf of San Francisco's religious leaders expressing condolences on the passing of Mayor Edwin M. Lee. Full statement may be viewed at: <https://goo.gl/fF5K9y>

Faith Community & City: Coming Together to Support Older Adults and Persons with Disabilities

In collaboration with the San Francisco Department of Adult & Aging Services, the San Francisco Interfaith Council will host a half-day workshop on Monday, October 16, 2017, at which congregation leaders will share their challenges and needs for ministering to older adults and persons with disabilities, as well as being briefed on how to access important City services available to these vulnerable sectors in their congregations. Program may be viewed at:

<https://goo.gl/P35A8z>

UN International Day of Peace Interfaith Service

On Thursday, September 21, 2017, the San Francisco Interfaith Council, in collaboration with the Interfaith Center at the Presidio and United Religions Initiative, will host an Interfaith Service in the Presidio Chapel in observance of the United Nations International Day of Peace. Central to this observance will be a special honor of the 20th anniversary of "*Roots of Peace: Mines to Vines*" for its tireless efforts to eradicate landmines worldwide.

Program may be viewed at: <https://goo.gl/3JMa5a>

SFIC's Role in Civic Response to "Patriot Prayer" Rally

The San Francisco Interfaith Council (SFIC) played a critical role in our City's civic response to the "Patriot Prayer" rally, permitted and scheduled by Federal authorities to take place on August 26, 2017, at San Francisco's Crissy Field. At the outset, SFIC Executive Director Michael Pappas was invited to join SF Mayor Edwin M. Lee, SF Police Department Chief William Scott and Board of Supervisors President London Breed at a briefing, followed by a press conference, that took place at the Mayor's Office on August 15, 2017. The Council then issued a statement entitled "*SF Faith Leaders Stand United Against Hate in Charlottesville and Our Back Yard,*" signed by 53 prominent interfaith partners. Pappas was also invited to be part of a special briefing for federal, state and local law enforcement, as well as related departments and agencies, at the SF Department of Emergency Management's Incident Command Center. Additionally, the SFIC was called upon by both the Mayor's staff as well as senior clergy from Congregation Emanuel and the Episcopal Diocese/Grace Cathedral to extend invitations to key religious leaders to participate at the primary City Hall religious leaders briefing, civic rally, as well as interfaith services at those two anchor houses of worship. The Council's vast communication network was utilized to promote these events and keep its constituency apprised of precautions being taken to ensure public safety. These collective efforts resulted in the impactful presence of San Francisco's religious leaders and their congregants at key civic and interfaith response gatherings.

Related Links:

- Statement Issued Link: *"SF Faith Leaders Stand United Against Hate in Charlottesville and Our Back Yard"*
<http://conta.cc/2i3YeJ5>
- Pam David, Executive Director, and Stephanie Rapp, Senior Program Officer for Jewish Life and Special Projects, of the Walter & Elise Haas Fund (a major SFIC funder), issued the following blog post on their website and listserv: <http://haassr.org/blog/following-charlottesville/>
- Press conference link: http://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=18&clip_id=28555
- ABC 7 TV news coverage link:
<http://abc7news.com/politics/sf-city-leaders-oppose-right-wing-rally-permitted-for-crissy-fields/2311129/>
- KRON 4 TV news coverage link: <http://kron4.com/2017/08/15/san-francisco-mayor-wants-alt-right-rally-blocked/>
- SF Examiner article "SF Lawmakers Demand Feds Deny Permit for Patriot Prayer Rally":
<http://www.sfexaminer.com/sf-lawmakers-demand-feds-deny-permit-patriot-prayer-rally/>
- Email blast sent regarding "Interfaith Gathering Against Hate" hosted by Congregation Emanu-el on Friday, August 25. Link to email blast: <http://conta.cc/2g09LzO>
- Email blast sent "SFIC Encourages Participation in Peaceful Weekend Gatherings" at Civic Center Plaza on Friday, August 25th at 12:00 pm; at Congregation Emanu-el on Friday, August 25th at 5:30 pm; and at Grace Cathedral on Saturday, August 26th at 12:30 pm. Link to email blast: <http://conta.cc/2gatc9k>
- Email blast sent regarding SFMTA Weekend Transit and Traffic Advisory.
Link to email blast: <http://conta.cc/2vcTlpr>
- A powerful spirit of love, unity and community filled Congregation Emanu-El on Friday evening, August 25, 2017. The San Francisco Interfaith Council partnered with Congregation Emanu-El, the Jewish Community Relations Council, San Francisco based Jewish Community Federation and Jewish Community Center of San Francisco in hosting a special Shabbat service called an "Interfaith Gathering Against Hate." Over 1,200 faithful from throughout the City, including an overwhelming number of faith leaders from different traditions invited by the San Francisco Interfaith Council along with civic officials were in attendance. The SFIC participated in numerous planning sessions in preparation for the event and promoted it to our 4,500 e-subscribers on August 21, 24, and 25. SFIC Executive Director Michael Pappas was invited to the Bema along with the directors of the sponsoring partners to offer a communal greeting during that service.

Audio recording of service: <https://www.emanuelsf.org/interfaith-gathering-hate/>
- J Weekly article: "Bay Area Unites Against Hate at Rousing Synagogue Events"
<https://www.jweekly.com/2017/08/26/bay-area-unites-hate-rousing-synagogue-events/>
- The SFIC partnered with the Episcopal Diocese of California and Grace Cathedral in sponsoring an "Interfaith Gathering for Peace" at the Cathedral's Chapel of Grace. Founder and Past Chair Rita R. Semel and SFIC Executive Director Michael Pappas participated at the event. Rita Semel was invited to be a featured speaker along with the Rev. Dr. Amos C. Brown and The Rev. Vicki Gray. At the conclusion of this powerful service The Right Rev. Marc Handley Andrus, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of California, offered a blessing to all in attendance before they marched in solidarity to join the masses at yet another rally in the Civic Center Plaza.

Link to Grace Cathedral's announcement:

<https://www.gracecathedral.org/events/interfaith-gathering-for-peace/>

Faith Leaders Convening with Assemblymember David Chiu

At the request of Assemblymember David Chiu, the San Francisco Interfaith Council convened a broad cross section of religious leaders and CEOs of our City's faith-based social service agencies for a briefing on his legislative agenda. Assemblymember Chiu highlighted his signatory bills related to housing, homelessness and immigration, after which he fielded a robust array of questions on a variety of timely and substantive issues. This convening took place on Friday, August 25, 2017 at the First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco.

Interfaith Blessing: Topping Off Celebration of Salesforce Tower

Salesforce CEO Marc Benioff extended the invitation to the SFIC to offer an interfaith blessing on the occasion of the "Topping Off" of the new Salesforce Tower, currently under construction. This edifice will be the second tallest structure west of the Mississippi River. On April 6, 2017, six prominent faith leaders offered prayers from their respective traditions. Together, a final blessing for all who undertook this monumental effort as well as for those who will labor and visit the structure was prayed in unison by those clergy. An account of this event and the role played by the SFIC's director and constituent leaders may be found in this article published that afternoon by the *San Francisco Chronicle*. Please visit: <https://goo.gl/jkJuex>

The SFIC's Engagement with San Francisco Law Enforcement

In recognition of the important role communities of faith play in fostering healthy and constructive neighborhood relationships, the newly appointed Chief of the San Francisco Police Department, William "Bill" Scott, accepted the SFIC's invitation to address and answer questions of our City's faith leaders. This exchange, which took place on May 5, 2017 at Congregation Emanu-El, was an opportunity for Chief Scott to outline his priorities for SFPD engagement with the community as well as to report on measures the force is taking in response to the currently issued Department of Justice report. For SFIC invitation to this briefing please visit: <https://goo.gl/oZCjCm>

Most recently, SFPD Chief William Scott invited Pappas, as a community leader and subject matter expert, to join the department as an external senior advisor to offer external perspectives on best practices in strategic planning and policy trends. More specifically, the work of this team will focus on the SFPD's multi-year process with the U.S. Department of Justice called the "Collaborative Reform Initiative" (CRI). The CRI mandates over 270 individual changes to the SFPD and how it operates.

Collaboration with the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA)

As San Francisco braces itself for a significant increase in residential and corporate building, the impact new structures and increased inhabitants will have on our City's transit system is a growing concern. Over the past three years the SFMTA, in collaboration with the SFIC, has engaged congregations along the Dolores/Guerrero Streets corridor to help address issues related to median parking in that neighborhood. As a result of those efforts, the SFMTA Board of Directors recently voted to institute a pilot study along that corridor. Recognizing the SFIC's role as advocate for its constituent congregations, the Director of the SFMTA has initiated a regular, bi-monthly "check-in" with the SFIC Executive Director regarding the impact of SFMTA policies on faith communities throughout the City.

Convener of the "SF Interfaith Essential Housing Task Force"

With the growing scarcity of housing and skyrocketing rents, low paid/middle income workers who provide essential services for the City are leaving San Francisco. By developing religious institutions' underutilized parcels for affordable rental housing, our faith communities will help stop the outmigration of our essential services workers.

The SFIC convened the City's key religious leaders and the CEOs of the major faith-based social service agencies on September 11, 2014, for the purpose of developing a response to income inequality and the housing affordability crisis. At that meeting, the group decided to form the "SF Interfaith Essential Housing Task Force." The Task Force agreed to work with the City to identify parcels of property owned by religious institutions that could be developed for rental housing, using private funding, for low paid workers who provide essential services to the City. These employees work in the fields of health care, social services, education and the arts, and public safety.

SF Mayor Ed Lee directed staff in the Mayor's Office of Housing and the SF Office of Economic and Workforce Development to advise the Task Force on its mapping efforts, site recommendations, and funding strategies and to make introductions to prospective developers. A select number of parcels have been identified and are currently under serious consideration for development.

In addition, during the 2015 election cycle, the City asked the Task Force to endorse and advocate for passage of a \$310 million Housing Affordability General Obligation Bond. Due in part to the Task Force's diligent efforts, the measure was approved.

Most currently, the real estate consulting team collaborating with the Task Force is both preparing feasibility and financial analyses on the properties under consideration as well as developing realistic funding strategies and options that will make these sites viable prospects for streamlined development.

Immigration Defense Fund

With a dramatic departure from existing immigration policy at the federal level, congregations and religious based non-profits and academic institutions have emerged as leaders in the effort to provide support and services to vulnerable immigrants whose residency status in our nation has been threatened.

On March 2, 2017 Mayor Edwin M. Lee announced that the City and County of San Francisco in partnership with the SFIC would launch a new funding program that would provide resources and support to non-profit community-based organizations serving immigrant communities. The SFIC identified as key priorities for the distribution of funds, those institutions whose missions and activities include: 1) protective and legal services; 2) workshops and trainings; and 3) support for those young people registered in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. The full text of this communiqué may be found by visiting: <https://goo.gl/p2ny5p>

Additionally, the SFIC partnered with key non-profits in co-sponsoring the following panels and forums:

- Free Citizenship Workshop (12/3/2016) <https://goo.gl/GbS3AJ>
- Immigration Now Workshop at Grace Cathedral (4/20/2017) <https://goo.gl/c7jjoR>
- Free Citizenship Workshop (4/22/2017) <https://goo.gl/isghZn>
- New Sanctuary Panel at St. Agnes Parish (5/25/2017) <https://goo.gl/eKSuhB>
- Free Citizenship Workshop (9/9/2017) <http://conta.cc/2wudZEa>

Most recently, SFIC Executive Director Michael Pappas was invited to join Mayor Edwin M. Lee, civic leaders, community partners and DACA recipients at a press briefing on September 5, 2017 to express concern over the discontinuation of the Federal DACA Program. The consequence of this action will be to place in jeopardy the future of over 800,000 young people who voluntarily disclosed their immigration status with the hope and promise of security and a pathway to full citizenship. Diverse communities of faith issued statements in the following link: <http://conta.cc/2vQoeBJ>

Commonwealth Club of California

The SFIC's Executive Director has moderated several panels for the Commonwealth Club's Middle East Forum. In February 2016, Michael Pappas moderated a presentation by human rights activist and author, Rebecca Tinsley, who talked about a project, "*Waging Peace: Why Genocide Keeps Happening*," which started after visiting a Darfur refugee

camp at the height of the killing there (Podcast: <https://goo.gl/DrrQp3>). In August 2016 Pappas moderated a panel of representatives of the Abrahamic faiths as they discussed their views on protecting the earth, caring for the environment, and combatting climate change (Podcast: <https://goo.gl/rhU7BK>). On December 15, 2017, Pappas is moderated a presentation that featured the critical work of founder and CEO of “*Roots of Peace*,” Heidi Kuhn, who for 20 years, has worked tirelessly to eradicate landmines worldwide. <https://www.rootsofpeace.org/>

Broad Civic Engagement

Because of the important stakeholder role the SFIC plays in many arenas, the SFIC has been invited to take a place at many tables. Executive Director Michael Pappas currently serves on the SF Human Rights Commission, the SF Disaster Council, and The San Francisco Foundation FAITHS Leadership Council.

San Francisco State University (SFSU) President, Dr. Les Wong, responding to tensions that have flared between student groups, campus climate and employee satisfaction, has created the President’s Task Force on Campus Climate. President Wong recently invited SFIC Executive Director Michael G. Pappas to serve as a member of that task force. Through policy recommendations, the ultimate goal will be to reaffirm SFSU’s commitment to the ideals of social justice, equity, inclusion and tolerance, the core values that support the institution’s mission of providing an education to its students and true preparation for living a life of principle and value.

The accomplishments listed above are the work of two full-time staff (Executive Director, Michael Pappas and Program/Administrative Associate, Cynthia Zamboukos), an active Board of Directors, the tireless volunteer efforts of our Past Chair, Rita R. Semel, and other dedicated volunteers. We gratefully acknowledge the funding provided by congregations, judicatories, agencies, individuals, and foundations which makes these achievements and others not listed here possible.