



Our mission: To embody mercy, justice, and love
as diverse faith partners in Washington County

www.harccoalition.org

“We Believe” Statements with Goals July 2022

1. We believe in the power of the faith communities working together

We strive to listen when God is speaking, and act boldly together to make a difference in our community. We build collaborations across boundaries of religious differences, as well as with community organizations, to do the work we are called to do.

(It was noted that all the work of HARC falls under this belief statement. The work listed here is specifically assigned to this category.)

Already doing:

- Interfaith Progressive Dinner
- Community Thanksgiving Service

New/Updated Goals:

1. Increase awareness, understanding and implement practices relative to the International Season of Non-Violence (from January 30- April 4), in 2023
2. Share information, resources and good news of HARC and member congregations through website and Facebook, publicizing the positive impact we're having as faith communities.

2. We believe in nurturing the unlimited potential of every child.

We focus our collaborative efforts on building supports around and creating opportunities for children and families.

Already doing:

- Micah's Backpack coordination, support, grant/fundraising, financial management. 48 churches and orgs served more than 1,050 children in 36 (80%) schools 2021-22.
- Provide workshops and resources on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) & Building Resilience
- Learning Parties on hold for COVID and volunteer feasibility; inquiring into Parent Cafes.

New/Updated Goals:

1. Connect the needs of schools/students beyond food with those who can meet those needs.

3. We believe all people have equal value and are loved by God.

We seek justice for those who are not treated equally or given equal value by our broken world. We strive to lift up the unique gifts and abilities of people and empower them to be who they were made to be.

Already doing:

- We support and come together when faith groups are attacked
- We stand with our member congregations in challenging times (as with the Smithsburg shooting).
- Racial Justice efforts:
 - Start a Washington County Black Professionals Network for the purpose of connection, support, safety, belonging, and economic prosperity. (Ready to launch August 2022!)
 - Partner with the WCPS Education Foundation to set up a scholarship fund for teaching degrees based on equity. (4 scholarships awarded July 2022!)
 - Educate People of faith and the community at large on systemic racial injustice. (Workshops held so far with HARC members and at Otterbein UMC)
 - Advocate for transportation for students in WCPS to special school programs. (Currently working on request to WCPS)

New/Updated Goals:

1. Advocate for an increase of educators in Washington County who are from underrepresented ethnic groups and support retention efforts.
2. Throughout the year, have a HARC presence at and support community events

4. We believe in equipping one another to create stronger houses of worship.

We build relationships among clergy and people of faith, and support and encourage one another. We provide information, resources, and connections to enhance the work of congregations, ministries, and community organizations.

Already doing:

- Provide an array of resources and information through the HARC website, News Flash and Facebook page.
- Maintain a list of Food & Clothing Resources for Washington County, shared with faith community, agencies, and schools.
- Compile a list of summer VBS and other children's free or low-cost activities, shared with faith community and children's organizations.
- Clergy Bible Study – Mondays at 9 am at Safron Bakery
- HARC Trivia Team – Wednesdays 7-9 pm at TGI Fridays (faith-based team, pub trivia)

New/updated goals:

1. Provide other fun opportunities for faith leaders (lay and clergy) to connect
2. Provide opportunities to learn about engaging/reaching new people to include them in faith communities (or hold a workshop for houses of worship on this topic)