Season of Encounter

Sacred Conversations on Race & Faith

Congregation Toolkit

A collection of tools to support your congregation to conduct sacred conversations about race, faith, and power

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Download this toolkit at faithinindiana.org/news/reports-resources/#convos.



Families First Campaign Plan, 2020-21

THE CURRENT MOMENT

No matter where we come from or what our color, most of us work hard for our families. But today, certain politicians exploit racial anxiety to divide working people and undermine faith in government for all, and rig the rules to benefit the wealthy few. Decades of voter suppression, gerrymandering, and voter-alienation have left regular people in Indiana marginalized from political power.

For Indiana's families—Black, White, and Latino—the consequences are devastating. While corporate profits are at an all-time high, 70% of Indiana jobs don't pay enough to live on. The leading cause of death for young black males in our state is homicide. Incarceration rates are at an all-time high—rising 32% in just two years—the largest increase of any state in the last two decades. The opioid crisis ravages our state.

Our religious traditions remind us that it doesn't have to be that way. By joining together with people from all walks of life, as our religious traditions have done in the past, we can create a just and inclusive Indiana where everyone belongs and every family thrives.

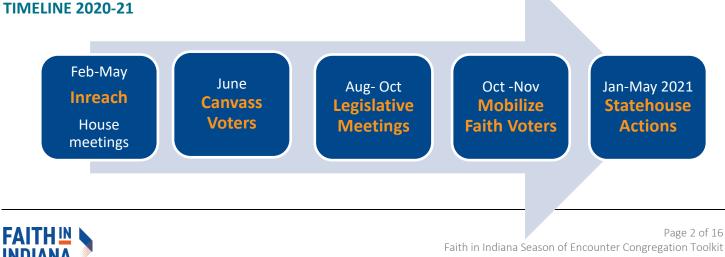
Families First Agenda

- Restorative Justice & **Gun Safety**
- Immigrant Inclusion
- Healthcare for All
- A Caring Economy
- Fair Democracy

THE PATH FORWARD

Together we are building a faith movement to reshape Indiana's priorities and advance a moral budget in 2021 that divest from incarceration and invests in families. We encourage our faith and community partners to shape this agenda and grow our collective power to enact our values. In 2020 we will:

- Invite 10,000 people to weigh-in on priorities for a moral budget for 2021
- Engage 52,000 voters of color, women, and youth to vote
- Meet with 50 elected officials and candidates on our Families First Agenda and bring home change in our counties



HOW CAN MY CONGREGATION OR ORGANIZATION GET INVOLVED?

Join a Faith in Indiana Chapter in Marion, Hamilton, Allen, Lake, St. Joseph, or Elkhart County, and consider engaging in these ways:

Form a team of 10-15 who will meet at least monthly to coordinate the congregation's efforts, with each team member taking on a unique role

Identify a Team Chair or Co-Chairs to support the team to reach their goals. Chairpersons will represent your team on the county-wide strategy council to guide overall effort

In-Reach: Set House Meeting & Pledged Volunteer Goal (Jan-Apr): House meetings are a powerful way to build community, surface priorities, and invite participation to act on our faith. For example, a medium size team of 10 might host 10 house meetings reaching 100 people who pledge to vote, pray, and act on our vision. You might incorporate congregational events, a simple survey, or host a justice sabbath.

Faith Voters. Starting in June, we will host four weekly community canvasses to talk to neighbors about their priorities and encourage them to vote. We'd invite each congregation to identify 10 volunteer each week.

Meet with Legislators. (Aug-Oct). Host a meeting with a key legislator or candidates running for office to share with them the Families First Priorities that we identified earlier in the year. County Chapters will identify key legislators at the local, state, and national levels who have decision- making authority on policy priorities. Together, we'll be asking state legislators to act on our Families First Agenda during the 2021 legislative session.

Public Actions on our Issues. (Jan-Apr 2021). Big decision will be made in the 2021 legislative session; set Indiana's 2-year budget, draw the legislative districts for the next decade and more. We will take action thru: Public actions at the statehouse, in-district meetings with legislators, and moments of mobilization like sending letters, emails, phone calls to urge action on our agenda.

Make a financial contribution from your institution.



STRATEGY & FORMATION: KEY DATES

Each 'Season of Engagement' will kick-off with a state-wide training to prepare top leaders and teams for collective action. County chapters host quarterly Leaders Assemblies for team leaders that include a mix of training, strategizing, and making plans to take-action. And Counties host regular 'Clergy Council' to bring together faith leaders guiding the strategy. Check for updates and details on our website; *faithindiana.org/events*

Faith in Action - National

JUL 12-17	Week-Long Community Organizing Retreat
JOL 12 1/	Week Long community organizing hericat

MAY 1-2 Black Church Justice Revival (Indianapolis)

Faith in Indiana: Statewide Trainings & Formation

FEB 21-22	Leaders Bootcamp: Season of In-reach Kick-off
MAY 7	Concurrent Leaders Assemblies: Chapters report backs on 'In-reachseason'
MAY 23	Leaders Bootcamp: Community Canvass Training
AUG 7-8	Leaders Bootcamp: Engaging Legislators on the Families First Agenda
NOV 16-17	Leaders Bootcamp: Legislative Action Launch (General Assembly Organization Day)
JAN 21	Legislative Launch: Season of Action (2021)

Faith Leaders- Clergy Training

May 1-2	Black Church Justice Revival (Indianapolis)
NOV 16-17	Statewide Clergy Retreat: Prophetic Action (In Indianapolis)

State Strategy Meeting

MAY 7	County Leaders Assemblies: State-wide In-Reach Report Backs
MAR 20, 2021	State Assembly: Mid-Session Mobilization Meeting
May 15, 2021	State Assembly: Debrief Legislative Season

Faith Voters

JUNE	June 11, 18, 25 & July 9 th , 5PM – 9PM- Community Canvass Days
SEP 12-14	Faith Voter Sabbath (congregations pledge to vote)
SEP 19-20	Faith Voter Sabbath (congregations pledge to vote)
Oct 5-8	Get out the Vote Phone Banks
OCT 5	Deadline to Register to Vote & Early Voting Begins
OCT 16-17	Souls to the Polls (Early Vote Caravans)
OCT 24-25	Souls to the Polls (Early Vote Caravans)
OCT 30-NOV3	Get out the Vote Weekend (phones, text, preaching)
NOV 3	ELECTION DAY

Faith in Indiana: County Chapters

Faith in Marion County (Indianapolis)

Leaders Assemblies: March 12, May 7, May 25, Aug 27, Oct 15, Dec 3rd

Faith in St. Joseph County

Leaders Assemblies: March 5, May 7, Aug 25, Oct 20, Dec 7

Faith in Allen County

Leaders Assemblies: March 19, May 7, May 28, Aug 20, Oct, 15, Dec 3

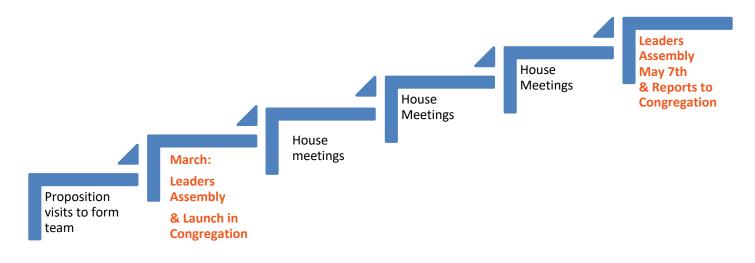
Faith in Hamilton County:

Organizing team: Third Wednesday of each month at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church



Phase I: 'In-Reach' – Sample Timeline

Week	Activity	Purpose
Week 1 (Feb 21-22)	Leaders Bootcamp: Relational Power	Develop Plan
Weeks 2 & 3	Proposition Visits and hold first House meeting (to practice)	Build relationships and proposition into your team
Week 4 (March 5)	Leaders Assembly in Chapter	House Meeting Training – all 10 team members are present and make plans for house meetings
Week 5	First Team Meeting & Launch in Services	Announce Season of Encounter at services, invite congregation to sign a pledgecard or attend a house meeting
Weeks 6 & 7	Hold House Meetings	
Week 8	Second Team Meeting	Report back on what your learning, practice, accountability
Weeks 9 & 10	Hold House Meetings	
Week 11 (May 7 th)	Leaders Assembly May 7 th – Simultaneous across the state in each chapter	Share themes from House meetings, strategy team reports on opportunities, vote on our Families First Vision for 2021, launch community canvasses
Week 12	Report Back to Congregation & Third Team Meeting	At services, share top themes, highlight personal stories, invite to community canvasses





Congregation 'In-reach' Worksheet

Our Power Purpose: Our team is working to ensure our legislative representative acts to support the Families First Policy Agenda during the 2021 legislative session:

- Legislator (s)
- Congregation/team: ______
 Chair/co-chairs: ______

STEP 1: SET TEAM GOALS

	Sample Goals (Medium-size congregation)	Our Goal
House Meetings (How many?) Each team member is encouraged to host a house meeting with around 10-15 people about the Families First Agenda	15	
Pledged Supporters Number of people who attend a House meeting or congregational event (Feb – May).	150	
Leaders Assembly May 7th Number of supporters who attend statewide assembly to hear back Families First Priorities and kick off the season of Voter Engagement	30	
Community Canvass (Weekly in June) Each Chapter will pick a weekly canvass day for 4 weeks in June. During the house meetings we encourage our supporters to commit attend the weekly canvass. Example: 20 people attend weekly = 80 shifts	80	

STEP 2: KEY DATES

	Sample Dates	Our Dates
First Congregation Team Meeting	Thurs. March 12 at 7pm	
Set Monthly Meeting	Every third Thurs. at 7pm	

STEP 3: Team Roles & Responsibilities

Team Role	Responsibilities	Name/Contact
Chair (co-chairs)	Manages the entire team. Coaches team members to reach their goals. Represents team at county-wide strategy meetings	
Team Member	Builds relationships with 10 or so people, who you are accountable to and who take action with Faith in Indiana. Specifically, this year team members will: host a house meeting, organize a canvass team, and work with their congregation to hold a legislator accountable to our agenda	
House Meeting Coach	This person coaches team members having house meeting. They attend house meetings as a supporter to keep consistency.	
Membership Captain	Follow up with attendees from house meeting that pledged to be a sustaining member by giving monthly. Thank them. Make sure all the people who sign-up are entered into the database.	



Team Captain/Chair Worksheet

MY TEAM: SUMMARY

	Sample Goals	My Goal
People on my team/# house meetings	15	
Delegates to Chapter Assembly/House Meeting Training	15	
Legislator(s) we will shepherd (this will likely get finalized by strategy team)	Indiana House District 5	
Chair of Team	ME!	
My Congregation/team:	St. Joseph Church	

Propositions List: People I will proposition onto my team (these should be people you already know):

New Relationships List: People in my congregation that I want to build relationships with. (Could be people you know, or people you want to know better, such as heads of other ministries, people with followings, people with leadership potential)

Our Base-Building Timeline

	Example	Our Team Timeline
•	First Team meeting, March1	
•	House meeting Training, March10	
•	Launch House meetings at Service, Mid March	
•	TeamConductsHousemeetings(teammeetstocheckin on progress	
•	Congregation Report Backs, Mid May (share back top themes, highlight impactful stories, share next steps)	



Season of ENCOUNTER Sacred Conversations on Race & Faith

House Meeting & Congregational Event Tools



Sample Agenda: House Meeting

Key Goals

- To be and make disciples
- To call out the Story of Division and Fear that is killing our communities and replace it with Our Story of Inclusion, Abundance, Interconnection

Guidelines

- Vulnerability and an exploration of our pain is the only way to fully see one another—to see our entire body.
- Everyone is doing their best. Control gut reactions to really listen and understand. Every story should be valued, and everyone has a story.
- We will not shy away from difficult/complex/painful conversations, but will do so out of generosity, curiosity and an acknowledgment of the divine in each of us.
- We will take risks and honor risks taken.

Key Moves	Main questions/ things to land	Digging Deeper (optional with time)
 Our Individual Stories (15 min) The Story of Division 	 Begin with prayer or faith reflection Leader shares story (How have you or a loved one been hurt by Story of Division and Fear?) Question: Tell a story of someone in your life who is hurting right now? (Share in large group or with partners) Question: (pull from stories above) What issues are on 	 What are the themes in these stories? What are the stories
and Fear (Naming) (15 min)	 Question: (pull from stories above) What issues are on our hearts today? (health care, immigration, criminal justice reform) Question: What is the story(ies) that get told about why this is the way it is? After eliciting the story from the group, test what we have below. Hierarchy of Human Value. We are divided. some people are deserving and others are undeserving; some people are disposable Scarcity. There is not enough, there is a zero-sum game and we are against one another for resources, power, wealth, dignity; if you get some, I lose some Hyper-Individualism. Our problems are only due to individual choices or character rather than systemic 	 we tell about the "undeserving"? Who do we picture to be in the "undeserving group"? Have you ever been in the "Undeserving" group? What stories do we tell about the deserving? Are these true?
3) The Story of Division and Fear (Consequences) (15 min)	 Question: When do you find yourself caught in the story above? Question: What are the costs to the story above for you/your loved ones/your community? Question: Who benefits from this story? How? Question: what are the implications of this story for how we view government, public institutions and our economy? 	blame for our problems? Who is really to blame?



4) Our Story Belonging Abundance, Interconnection (20 mins)	 What does our faith say about the above? What does our faith say about our relationship to one another? After eliciting the story from the group, test what we have below. Belonging. Everyone is invited to belong, every life made in G!d's image. Abundance. When we come together there is enough for everyone. Inter-Connection. Our fates are linked; we are a part of same body; no one is outside of the circle of human concern. Question: What would be different for your loved one you mentioned earlier if these statements were widely accepted as truth? Question: What would our government, our criminal justice system, our economy look like if we all believed these two statements to be true? 	 What would you have to let go of to fully live out of this vision?
5) Our Choice as Faith Leaders (5 min)	 Question: What is uniquely required of us as people of faith to advance the story above? Casting a vision of what is possible. Unveiling the Story of Division and Fear when we see it. Discipleship. Making more disciples. Will you act with Faith in Indiana this year? We can enact our vison of abundance, inclusion, and connection, and it starts in the 2021 State budget. We can Invest in treatment not jails, proven strategies to reduce gun violence, freedom to drive, healthcare for all. On May 7th, we will finalize our vision, then congregations across the state will do 2 things; engage voters in June & engage legislators to build support for our vision in the fall. 	Leader should be prepared with testimony of why they are a part of this movement. If people are concerned about faith and politics ask them: who will call out the costs of the Story of Division and Fear and spread Our Story if not us? If not people of faith?
6) Acting Together to Put Families First (10 min)	 Join the Families First Faith Movement in Indiana! Sign a pledge card and become a member Host a conversation in your home Attend our Community Canvasses every Thursday in June to talk to voters about our vision Join our Faith in Indiana team and help us plan a meeting with our local and state legislators this fall Come to the Leaders Assembly on May 7th at 7pm Attend a public action Evaluation (Ask everyone to share one word of how they are feeling. Ask a couple people to expand) Close with prayer or faith reflection 	Ask: what will hold people back from taking action? How will they overcome this? What are the costs of not acting? What other ideas for action do people have?



Team Member: House Meeting Planning Sheet

DATE	LOCATION	HOST	CO-HOST
INVITED GUESTS		l	
1.		11.	
2.		12.	
3.		13.	
4.		14.	
5.		15.	
6.		16.	
7.		17.	
8.		18.	
9.		19.	
10.		20.	

DATE	LOCATION	HOST	CO-HOST
INVITED GUESTS			
1.		11.	
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5.		15.	
6.		16.	
7.		17.	
8.		18.	
9.		19.	
10.		20.	



House Meeting Report Form

Alternatively, you may fill out this report form online by following this link: <u>http://bit.ly/HouseMtgReport</u>

Host name
Congregation
How many people attended the house meeting?

What was the highlight of the meeting for you?

What were the most powerful stories shared?

What were the top concerns raised by people in the community? (Healthcare, Criminal Justice Reform, Immigrant Rights, Democracy, Good Jobs, Other)

What changes would you make if you facilitated a future house meeting?

What actions did people commit to take?

(Attend a community canvass, plan a team meeting with a legislator, sign a pledge card)



Faith in Indiana's Story

Faith in Indiana is vehicle for faith communities and people of good will to work together for racial and economic equity in Indiana.

Our diverse religious traditions are called to enact abundance, dignity, and inclusion in all public decisions. To stop gun violence. To shift resources from the criminalization and incarceration of people of color and strengthen the social safety net for the state's most vulnerable residents.

To make our democracy more fair, representative and inclusive. And to develop the leadership of those who have been excluded from civil society, particularly people of color, women, youth, immigrants, returning citizens, and people in poverty.

Faith in Indiana has grown from a single city, Indianapolis, to six county chapters that make up 40% of Indiana's electorate; Marion, Hamilton, St. Joseph, Allen, and Lake. Over 132 diverse congregations lead our county chapters, in partnership with Indiana's seventeen largest denominations.

We have won a set of critical policy changes to improve everyday life for the Hoosiers who need it most;

- With our partners, we moved Governor Holcomb to suspend the Medicaid work requirement, restoring healthcare security for 88,000 Hoosiers
- Incarceration in the Marion County jail has fallen 30% over three years. There are 700 fewer people in jail each day because we persuaded Mayor Hogsett to adopt our criminal justice reform plan, and we're leading efforts in multiple counties to do the same.
- With many partners, we blocked two private prisons from being built in Indiana, both of which would have been detention facilities to expand the ICE deportation machine. In Elkhart and Newton Counties, we generated noisy, visible community opposition to denounce and reject the proposed private prison facilities. We passed multiple county policies to end ICE detainers, the unconstitutional practice of holding immigrants without a warrant for ICE.
- Our Families First voting bloc of 52,300 people engaged over multiple election cycles and boosted voting among our voters; 21% among African-Americans and women, 13% among Latinos, and 7%, changing whose voice matters.

Together, we can build a just and inclusive Indiana where everyone belongs and everyone thrives.

Learn more at: <u>faithindiana.org</u>



Families First Policy Agenda

Faith in Indiana is building an Indiana where everyone belongs and every family thrives.

The following are some examples of how Faith in Indiana and Act Indiana leaders propose to achieve the 'Families First' Agenda. These examples are not exhaustive. They are a work in progress and are subject to change based on our engagement with the issues; our creativityin imagining, designing and implementing innovative solutions; and the extent of our collective power to make these ideas manifest.

Restorative Justice

We work towards a criminal justice system that promotes healing and redemption, and shifts resources away from the mass criminalization of Black people, immigrants, and poor families. We support;

- End the cash bail system, so people's freedom doesn't depend on ability to pay.
- Jail Diversion Programs. We want people who are mentally ill or suffering from addiction to receive treatment, not jail.
- **Reform law enforcement** to be accountable to the wellbeing of our communities.
- **Proven strategies to reduce gun violence** that offer a genuine path out of street life to the small number of people responsible for shootings; like Group Violence Intervention and Peacemaker Fellowships
- **Gun safety measures** like universal background checks, a ban on civilian access to military assault rifles, and responsible gun sales.

Immigrant Inclusion

- Restore access to **driver's licenses** regardless of immigration status
- Restore access to higher education to all Hoosier High School graduates, regardless of immigration status
- End ICE Holds Sheriff Departments pass directives to end the unconstitutional practice of holding immigrants without a warrant at the request of ICE
- Institute Municipal ID programs and legal services

Healthcare for All

- Expand Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act
- Lower the cost of life saving **prescription drugs**, like insulin
- Invest in mental health, addiction, and crisis intervention centers

A Caring Economy

- Create statewide **Paid Family & Medical Leave** Insurance program, so people can take time off to be with a new baby or sick family member without fear of losing their job
- Protect pregnant workers and new mothers
- Fully fund quality preschool for every child in Indiana

Fair Democracy

• A fair and inclusive democracy puts people at the center of politics. We support **fair redistricting, automatic voter registration, ending voter ID,** and other reforms that make it easier tovote.





Organizer:

County:

Time:

Date:



Congregation Congregacion													
Email Correo Electronico													
Land Line Phone Linea Fija													
Cell Phone Celular													
Zip Code Código Postal													
Street Address Dirección													
Name Nombre													
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To Vote, Act and GIVE with	Name Email	ME COMPROMETO para votar, actuar y DAR con Fe en Indiana para promover la	Nombre Email
Image: Construction of the sector of the	Mobile Phone Congregation/Organization	Primera Agenda de las Familias: 전 La Justicia Restaurativa 전 Cuidando la Economía 전 Democracia Justa 전 Cuidado de la Salud Para Todos -	Teléfono móvil Congregación / Organización
	Street Address	sin Excepciones Bienvenidos Todos, Especialmente a los Inmigrantes.	Dirección Ciudad
	City State, Zip Please complete this column, even if you do not donate.		Código Postal Código Postal Por favor completar esta columna, incluso si no está haciendo una donación.
 Contribute: Our Families, Our Fu Join us to build a roadmap to liberation for ALL our brothers an Indiana to thrive. Become a SUSTAINING MEMBER today. 	Contribute: Our Families, Our Future oin us to build a roadmap to liberation for ALL our brothers and sisters in Indiana to thrive. Become a SUSTAINING MEMBER today.	Contribuir • Nuestras F Únase a nosotros para construir una hoja de ru hermanos y hermanas de Indiana prosperen. C	Contribuir • Nuestras Familias, Nuestro Futuro Únase a nosotros para construir una hoja de ruta hacia la liberación para que TODOS nuestros hermanos y hermanas de Indiana prosperen. Conviértete en UN MIEMBRO DE APOYO hoy.
Choose a Membership I Will Donate 310 \$25 \$50 Donation Frequency 0 One-time Monthly*	5 🗌 \$50 🔲 Other	Yo Donaré \$10 \$25 Frecuencia de donacion Una vez 1	25 🛛 \$50 🗖 Otro
Donate by Credit Card		Dona con tarjeta de crédito Tipo de tarjeta de crédito 🔲 Visa 🔲 MC 🛛	AmEx Discover
Credit Card Type 🔲 Visa 🔲 MC 🔲 AmEx 🔲 Discover Name on Card	mEx 🛛 Discover	Nombre en la Tarjeta Nímero de Tarieta	
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Signature By my signature above. I authorize Faith in Indiana to charge the credit card or bank account listed above in the amount indicated for member By my signature above. I authorize Faith in Indiana to charge the credit card or bank account listed above in the amount indicated for member this credit card or owner of this bank account. I am logally authorized to enter into this agreement with Faith in Indiana. "By checking the MONTENT Proce above, I authorize this in Matan to make a recurring charge, we way much or year a noded for membership understand that this charge wall contron world. Cannot this authorization in writing by mail to Faith in Indiana. 227 W 104 No. 8	k account listed above in the amount indicated for memberahip dues. I am the logal cardholder for this agreement with Faith in Indiana. The second of the second seco	Con mi firma arriba, autorizo a Faith en Indiana a cargar la tarjeta de crédito o la cuenta bancaria mencionada anteriormente en la cantidad indicada para las cuotada de membresia. Soy el titular legal de la tarjeta de crédito o propietario de esta cuenta bancaria. Estroy legalmente autorizado para celebrar este acuerdo son Faith en Indiana. "Al marcar la casilla MENSUAL arriba, autorizo a Faith en Indiana. "Por las cuotas de membresia en la tarjeta de tratido rindicada.	rédito o la cuenta bancaria mencionada anteriormente en la cantidad de crédito o propietario de esta cuenta bancaria. Estoy legalmente ealizar un cargo recurrente, todos los meses o años, según se indique, que este cargo continuará hasta que cancele esta autorización por
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