



## 2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT



### Our Mission:

To provide opportunities to Tysons residents for spiritual growth & community service while advancing the principles of mutual respect, diversity, compassion, and ethical engagement

Tysons Interfaith President, Steve Wickman. St Thomas Episcopal Church.



- What a year! None of us have experienced anything like this before in our lifetimes – neither the disease itself nor the impact on our lives of quarantine, social-distancing, mask-wearing, vehement disagreements, and sadly, a huge death toll. The isolation from family and friends and the loss of life have been most difficult. I want to express condolences to those who lost family or friends during this on-going pandemic period.
- However, people of faith are optimists, always working toward a better future. Tysons Interfaith confronted the challenges presented by our drastically changed lifestyle and made significant progress in evolving our organization and in serving the Greater Tysons community.
- As the new President of Tysons Interfaith, I am excited to lead our organization for the next year and continue our mission of providing opportunities for spiritual growth and service to the residents and workers in the emerging city of Tysons.

- Please meet our officers for the coming year, look through the accomplishments of this past year, and see our plans for the coming year. Thank you for being a part of Tysons Interfaith.

Vice President, Michael Goldberg, MD. Member of the Local Spiritual Assembly of the McLean Baha’i Community. Retired ophthalmologist who provided eye care in Northern Virginia for forty years. Tysons Interfaith strives to unite all people in one common fellowship.



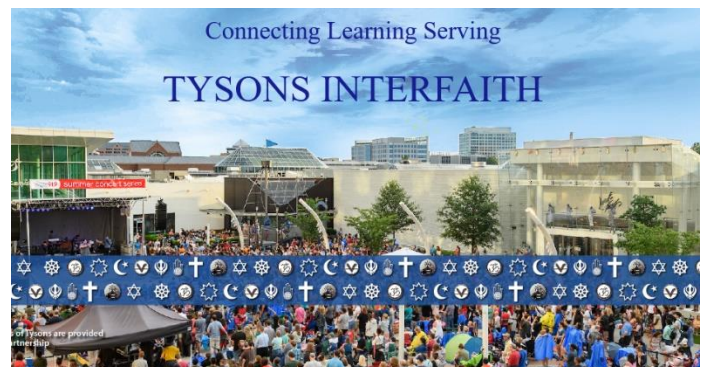
Secretary. Dave Smith, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, McLean Stake. Retired attorney, specializing in maritime law. A resident of Northern Virginia since 1978, David believes strongly that cooperation among people of faith can have a positive influence in the fast-evolving Tysons community. Many people are searching for ways to have contentment and peace in their lives and to serve the community.

Treasurer. Dave Merrill, Treasurer. Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, McLean Stake. Principal and Director of Tax at Creative Planning, McLean. Dave and his family enjoy living, working, worshipping, and exploring the parks in the Tysons area.



## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PAST YEAR

- **Massive revision to website.** In addition to explaining our mission and purpose, our site publicizes and promotes:
  - Events sponsored by Tysons Interfaith and area non-profit organizations.
  - Direct links to community services and Fairfax County resources, as well as public health resources to combat the Covid virus.
  - Links to area faith communities, non-profits and volunteer opportunities.
  - Inspirational and informative blogs.



Since going live in March 2021 the new web site has had over 25,800 visits, averaging almost 1000 visits per week!

➤ **Panel presentations and group discussions.** Unable to continue our Community Conversation series in person because of the pandemic, but outraged by the public murder of George Floyd and other people of color, we pivoted to Zoom to conduct discussions on the “oneness of humanity.” The series began with a theological perspective and evolved into discussion of practical actions we all can undertake.

## Oneness of Humanity

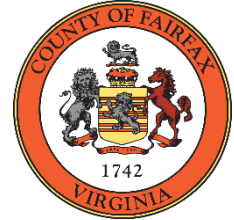
- Theological foundation from several faith perspectives.
- Different faith perspectives on “racism.”
- What are we learning about social justice inequities during the pandemic?
- What specifically can people of faith do to encourage dialogue and encourage social justice?
- Social justice issues in Tysons from the perspective of District Supervisors Palchik and Alcorn.
- What makes a community a community?

Over 200 different attendees participated in seven discussion sessions

➤ **Growing our presence and understanding our Tysons Community.** Most Tysons Interfaith and community events were conducted virtually this past year. While this did not allow us to build relationships in person, virtual attendance did have many benefits, such as reaching many more people; not having to find and reserve meeting or event venues; eliminating traffic and parking issues; and beginning and ending on time, to name a few. As a result, a larger number of Tysons Interfaith members were able to attend advocacy, County-sponsored, and educational opportunities than otherwise would have been the case.

- Dialogue with Community Leaders
  - Tysons falls in two Fairfax County jurisdictions – Providence District and Hunter Mill District. Supervisors Palchick (Prosperity) and Alcorn (Hunter Mill) participated in our Oneness of Humanity discussions, sharing their views on needs in the current and future Tysons and the role of faith communities. We continue an open dialogue with these Supervisors and their staffs.
  - Partnership CEO Sol Glasner met with the Tysons Interfaith Board to discuss Tysons as a “community.” He considers Tysons Interfaith to be a bridge between the government sector, private sector (investors), and residents. Sol noted that:
    - Tysons is successful economically but lacks “soul.” He encouraged us to continue developing “spiritual space” in Tysons, whether it be physical space or a spirit of community respect and service.
    - A mature urban community must have space available for worship and meditation, for those who wish to do so.
    - Pursuing shared space with the arts community may be a viable option and prove beneficial to both the arts and faith communities.
    - We should build a close relationship and expand our work with the Partnership’s Community Responsibility Council.
  - Fairfax County Equity Officer, Karla Bruce, met with us virtually to review the Fairfax County Strategic Plan and the County’s Equity Statement.
  - Kim Bobo, Executive Director of the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, and Northern Virginia coordinator, Anne Murphy, met with our Board to explain the VICPP mission and how people of faith can influence state policies and legislation.

- Mentored the Capstone project for a George Mason University student researching healthcare disparities in Fairfax County.
  - She concluded that residential zip code does in fact influence availability of healthy foods, healthcare, and healthcare outcomes – even here in Fairfax County.
  
- Several Tysons Interfaith members and congregational representatives participated in on-line events sponsored by Faith Communities in Action (FCIA), the liaison between the County’s nearly 500 faith communities and County government. FCIA works to increase awareness of community services and resources, identify needs, and strengthen community capacity to meet those needs.
  - Recurring periodic sessions on health care and County resources to deal with the Covid pandemic.
  - Service opportunities to assist with food and housing emergencies suffered by County residents suddenly unemployed because of Covid lock downs.
  - Social justice issues in the County and remedial actions planned or underway.
  - Training curricula for County police officers on equity in law enforcement.
  - Vocational training opportunities in Fairfax County.
  
- Besides reaching out to the community beyond our congregations, Tysons Interfaith is a way for faith groups to get to know, understand, and respect one another, and promote good feeling among congregations of all faiths, despite doctrinal and other differences. Tysons Interfaith was delighted to welcome three new participating congregations during 2020-21.



➤ **OUTREACH**

- In partnership with Fairfax County as a public service, completed and published a map of houses of worship, public spaces, and community services available in and within a five-mile radius of Tysons.
- Through our website and direct emailing spread the word and encouraged support of emergency feeding for families and individuals suddenly made food-insecure by loss of jobs and closed workplaces.
- Prepared Welcome Bags for new residents in Tysons. Bags contain the Community Map, pens, refrigerator magnets, eyeglass cleaners, and a welcome note from Tysons Interfaith, all bearing the Tysons Interfaith logo and encouraging newcomers to visit our website.



➤ **FINANCE**

- Established a Post Office box (3675, Tysons, VA 22103) and Pay Pal account to receive donations
- Updated our suggested donation levels for member congregations and individuals
  - **Faith Communities**  
Less than 100 households    \$150

|                    |       |
|--------------------|-------|
| 100-250 households | \$300 |
| 251+ households    | \$500 |

- **Affiliate Partners**

|                        |         |
|------------------------|---------|
| Individuals            | \$100   |
| Corporations           |         |
| Annual Revenue: < \$1M | \$100   |
| \$1M - \$10M           | \$500   |
| >\$10M                 | \$1,000 |

- **Income**

- Donations from member congregations, 2021: \$3,350
- In-kind donations from congregations and individuals to date, 2021 \$1,000+

- **Expenditures**

- Programs, printing, website design, community outreach, to date, 2021 \$3,300

- **Cash** on hand, August 31, 2021 \$8,000

➤ **FUTURE**

- Essay contest. We are sponsoring an art and essay contest in fall 2021, with cash prizes, inviting students and adults in the Greater Tysons area to share emotions and perceptions as to how they have been impacted by the reality of living in a pandemic world. Depending on community response, this may become an annual event, on different topics.
- The Oneness of Humanity discussions will resume in September 2021, with a panel presentation and discussion on mental health issues associated with lifestyles, health concerns, and political tensions we are all experiencing.
- We are exploring ways Tysons Interfaith can provide long-term support for Afghani refugees who will be settling in Fairfax County, seeking guidance from our Muslim faith communities, Lutheran Social Services, Fairfax County, and others involved with resettlement efforts. We are considering hosting a Oneness event to hear directly from Afghani refugees about their experience and to highlight ways individuals and faith communities can help them.
- We are exploring options for a “Meet Your Neighbor” event, a community gathering that celebrates the diverse cultures present in and essential to our vibrant Tysons community. We seek partners in both the non-profit and corporate communities to ensure success of this event.
- Many new indoor and outdoor venues have opened throughout Tysons, offering Tysons Interfaith comfortable places to gather for discussion, special programs, and building relationships of mutual respect
- We have transitioned – probably permanently - to Zoom for monthly meetings but have begun scheduling quarterly after-work social events to maintain personal contact.
- We will continue partnering with and growing relationship with:
  - The Tysons Partnership ([www.tysonspartnership.org](http://www.tysonspartnership.org))
  - The Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce ([www.tysonschamber.org](http://www.tysonschamber.org))
  - Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services ([www.fairfaxcounty.gov/neighborhood-community-services](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/neighborhood-community-services))

## Tysons Interfaith Participating Congregations

|   |                           |              |
|---|---------------------------|--------------|
| Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church       | 1301 Trap Road            | Vienna       |
| Bahai Community of Great Falls              |                           |              |
| Bahai Community of McLean                   |                           |              |
| Center for Spiritual Living™ Metro          | 3550 Wilson Boulevard     | Arlington    |
| Church of the Holy Comforter (Episcopal)    | 543 Beulah Road           | Vienna       |
| Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints | 2034 Great Falls Street   | Falls Church |
| Dar Al-Hijrah Islamic Center                | 3159 Row Street           | Falls Church |
| Emmanuel Lutheran Church                    | 2589 Chain Bridge Road    | Vienna       |
| First Church of Christ, Scientist           | 1683 Chain Bridge Road    | McLean       |
| Lewinsville Presbyterian Church             | 1724 Chain Bridge Road    | McLean       |
| Lutheran Church of the Redeemer             | 1545 Chain Bridge Road    | McLean       |
| McLean Baptist Church                       | 1367 Chain Bridge Road    | McLean       |
| McLean Islamic Center                       | 8800 Jarrett Valley Drive | Vienna       |
| Shiloh Baptist                              | 8310 Turning Leaf Lane    | McLean       |
| St John's Episcopal Church                  | 6715 Georgetown Pike      | McLean       |
| St Thomas Episcopal Church                  | 8991 Brook Road           | McLean       |
| Temple Rodef Shalom                         | 2100 Westmoreland Street  | Falls Church |

The following faith communities are not active participants but have asked to be on the Tysons Interfaith email list:

|   |                            |             |
|---|----------------------------|-------------|
| All Dulles Area Muslim Society (ADAMS) Center | 46903 Sugarland Road       | Sterling    |
| Capital Presbyterian Church                   | 8100 Innovation Park Drive | Fairfax     |
| Emmaus United Church of Christ                | 900 Maple Avenue, East     | Vienna      |
| Immanuel Presbyterian Church                  | 1125 Savile Lane           | McLean      |
| Jain Ghar Derasar                             |                            | Chantilly   |
| Langley Hill Friends Meeting                  | 6410 Georgetown Pike       | McLean      |
| Meher Baba Spiritual Community                |                            |             |
| Our Lady of Good Counsel                      | 8601 Wolftrap Road, SE     | Vienna      |
| St. Francis Episcopal                         | 9220 VA-193                | Great Falls |
| Trinity Presbyterian                          | 651 Dranesville Road       | Herndon     |
| Vienna Baptist Church                         | 541 Marshal Road, SW       | Vienna      |
| Vienna Presbyterian Church                    | 124 Park Street, NE        | Vienna      |