

Philadelphia Faith and Safety Mayoral Forum

April 16, 2023

Goals of the Faith and Safety Mayoral Forum:

- 1. Build POWER Action/POWER Interfaith's power with the future mayor**
- 2. Move our teams and clusters to clarity around their campaign priorities**
- 3. Develop leadership across the city**
- 4. Lay the groundwork to build true citywide power across clusters and teams.**

Highlights:

- Attended by over 700 people of faith from every neighborhood in Philadelphia
- Led by 72 unique leaders that held roles from a core planning team, to turnout captains, to research teams
- Involved 91 congregations, 43 of which are not existing members of POWER Interfaith
- Held 2 research meeting training sessions, attended by 69 core leaders
- Earned 1 media hit, see [here](#)
- Trained 300 people in a political education session on the role and power of the mayor in Philadelphia

Leadership development:

The most important measure of success in this project is whether or not we developed leadership in our base. While POWER Action/POWER Interfaith has held forums before, the scale of this forum was unique for us outside of coalition events.

The planning team started the arc of organizing this forum by hosting two political education training sessions in February attended by 300 people. Attendees were trained on the roles and power of the mayor in the city in order to deepen our analysis of power in Philadelphia, to make stronger strategic decisions in their campaign team around targets and tactics, and as a step in building towards the forum.

The planning team designed the forum as a series of research meetings in service of our goal of developing leaders. We trained 69 leaders on how to do a research meeting, and 40 of them were in research meetings, some for the first time, on April 16th with a mayoral candidate. This will serve our teams and organization for months to come as those leaders continue to conduct research meetings in their context.

This was a large turnout event, and a leader from every congregation was propositioned to be a turnout captain. They were given support and training to do so (again, most for the first time), and many met and even exceeded their turnout goals for the forum. Once again, these are long-lasting skills that are strengthening our organizing in Philadelphia in the long term.

Members of the planning team for this event will continue on in their leadership journey to become members of POWER Interfaith's Steering Committee. Planning the forum gave them an opportunity to begin to build relationships and develop new organizing skills that will benefit us as the Steering Committee becomes the central decision making body in Philadelphia.

Lastly, our organizing staff had the opportunity to stretch and strengthen their own leadership and organizing skills

Building Power:

We wanted to build our power in two ways: by building our relationship with the potential future mayor, and by building our base across the city.

Four mayoral candidates were in attendance at the forum. They were asked to commit to meeting with POWER Action/POWER Interfaith monthly, and 3 out of 4 agreed. We hope that this will be the groundwork for a true co-governing relationship with Philadelphia's next mayor.

The Faith and Safety forum was POWER Action in Philadelphia's largest event since 2019, with over 700 attendees. 91 congregations from across the city were in attendance, and 43 of those are not current POWER Interfaith members. We saw growing engagement in new congregations, such as Polite Temple Baptist Church, Spirit and Truth Fellowship, Church of the Crucifixion, Philadelphia Praise Center, West Kensington Ministry, and many others. See below for the most comprehensive list of congregations and communities we organized into the forum. These lists are not exhaustive but reflect the information I was able to capture.

Platform Development:

The planning team was invested in our goal of seeing our teams and clusters come to deeper clarity around the 1 or 2 campaign demands that they would see through in 2023.

Through hundreds of conversations, listening sessions, and research meetings, every team across POWER Action/POWER Interfaith in Philadelphia created intentional, strategic questions and demands directed at the Mayor's office based on what they heard in their listening and research. These became a slate of 15 demands that now make up POWER Action/POWER Interfaith's Faith and Safety platform, which can be found [here](#).

This will allow us to move with purpose, clarity, and power in our organizing through the rest of the year and beyond.

Next steps:

POWER Action has created a scorecard and voter guide based on what was said by candidates at the forum, and 44 congregations have committed to hold a meeting to share these tools with their broader congregational membership in order to help members make informed choices in this primary election.

The Philadelphia Steering Committee has asked for follow-up meetings with the mayoral candidates starting in June.

Congregations/Communities:

Mishkan Shalom

Masjidullah

Germantown Jewish Centre

UUs Mount Airy

Unitarian Society of Germantown

St. Vincent's

P'nai Or

Old First Reformed UCC

Society Hill Synagogue

St. Luke and the Epiphany

Church of the Crucifixion

Philadelphia Praise Center

House of Faith

Living Water UCC

Calvary St. Augustine

Kol Tzedek Synagogue

People's Baptist Church

Tikkun Olam Chavurah
Beacon Church
St. Francis Desales
Circle of Hope
First Unitarian Church
Mt. Tabor AME
Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church
Beth Zion Beth Israel
West Philadelphia Mennonite
Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting
One Hope Community Church
Mother Bethel AME
Congregation Rodeph Shalom
Christ Church
Polite Temple Baptist Church
Mosaic Community Church
Spirit and Truth
Disney Nichols AME
Sharon Baptist Church
Calvary UMC
Arch St. UMC
Central Philadelphia Friends Meeting
St. Martin in the Field Episcopal
Mt. Pisgah AME
St. Jude's Episcopal
New Covenant Church
St. Peter's Episcopal Church
Calvary Baptist Church
FUMCOG
African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas
Lutheran Church of the Holy Communion
Germantown Friends Meeting
Coventryville UMC
St. Simon the Cyrenian
St. Mark AME Zion
Germantown Mennonite Church

8th St. Community Church
Deliverance Evangelist Church
Chestnut Hill United Church
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
Newtown Friends Meeting
St. Athanasius Parish
Parkway Northwest High School
Leyv Ha-Ir
St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church
Voice of Praise World Ministries
St. Malachy
Thornbury AME
St. Luke's Germantown
West Kensington Ministry
Grace United Methodist Church
Gloria Dei Episcopal Church
Evangel Chapel
Renewal Presbyterian
The Family Church
Bibleway Baptist Church
Philadelphia Ethical Society
Tabernacle United Church
Indonesia Light Church
St. Paul Baptist Church
Servants of Christ UMC
Green Street Quaker Meeting
Mt. Zion Baptist Church
Heart of Worship Restoration Center
Summit Presbyterian
Gapura Indonesian Community Center
United Lutheran Seminary
Welcome Church Philadelphia
Triumph Baptist Church
St. Matthew AME
Adonai United Baptist Church
Living Faith Christian Center

Congregation Kol Emet
St. Johns Lutheran