

## What Have We Accomplished To Date?

**Criminal Justice** - GCC's efforts led to the creation of a much-needed mental health and addiction crisis diversion center in Cuyahoga County, focusing on treatment rather than county jail for those with mental health and substance use disorders. Currently, GCC is working to reduce youth bindovers to adult jail and to address pre-trial justice for adults.

**Gun Safety** - GCC has played a leadership role in the National Gun Safety Consortium, which includes the City of Cleveland. Comprised of 19 municipalities throughout the country, the Consortium is working with the largest health care company in New York State on a study of gun owners' reactions to gun safety products, the results of which has the potential to save lives with reductions in the number of accidents, suicides, and gun theft.

**Health Equity** - GCC's Dollars for Doses Campaign offered financial incentives to individuals receiving COVID-19 vaccinations in member houses of worship located in underserved communities. This Campaign made it possible for 3754 adults and children to gain access to lifesaving vaccines and mitigate the health risks of the virus.

**Economic Democracy** - This initiative addresses concerns regarding economic imbalances. GCC's PowerUp Purchasing Cooperative has enabled GCC congregations to band together and sign numerous electric and gas supply contracts, generating savings for our member institutions of nearly \$100,000.

**Voter Engagement** - In the fall of 2022, neighborhood captains contacted 1,384 low-propensity voters and mailed voter guides to 6,100 residents. This effort resulted in greater inclusion and fairer representation among voters than in the Fall 2020 election.

*"The time is now to identify societal injustice and to right fundamental wrongs. By partnering with our neighboring religious communities, we create fellowship while using the power of our combined numbers to make a real difference in the lives of our fellow citizens."*

Rabbi Joshua Caruso, Founding Co-Chair, GCC

### Fairmount Temple Core Team Clergy:

Rabbi Joshua Caruso  
Rabbi Robert Nosanchuk

### Fairmount Temple Core Team Members:

Laurel Barr	Marcia Levine
David Biegel	Barbara Lowe
Kate Anderson Foley	Jon Messer
Bill Franklin	Laurenda Messer
Nancy Glick	Michael Penzner
Ivan Goldfarb*	Richard Rakos
Rita Goodman	Jim Samuels*
Anita Gray	Judith Schiller
Larry Heller	Linda Schlein
Janice Hirshon	Debbie Skapin
Peggy Isquick	Paul Sobel
Ronna Kaplan	Russell Spieth
Brian Kastner	Kennee Switzer
Debbie Kastner	Cynthia Tancer
Norm Keane*	Mixon Ware
Leslie Kleinman	Mitch Wasserman
Lynn Kleinman	Donna Weinberger
Michael Kleinman	
Michele Krantz	
Lisa Lebowitz	

*\*Core Team Members  
of blessed memory*

*"It is not your responsibility to finish the work, but neither are you free to desist from it."*

-Rabbi Tarfon

## Criminal Justice

## Gun Safety

## Health Equity

## Economic Democracy

## Voter Engagement

## Greater Cleveland Congregations

Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple  
A Founding GCC Member



## Why GCC?

### **Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple:**

Judaism teaches us that to save a single life is to save an entire world.

We have a rich history and enduring commitment to effect change locally, regionally, nationally, and worldwide. Our community nurtures opportunities to promote tzedek and social justice and create change in areas of need. GCC is the grassroots, interfaith means to transform the world from what it is to what it could be.

## What is GCC?

Greater Cleveland Congregations (GCC) is a faith-based community organization that gives voice and action to Social Justice issues in Cuyahoga County by uniting people of all races, classes, religions, and neighborhoods. Beginning with a nucleus of just a dozen congregations across faiths, GCC has grown three-fold across Cuyahoga County.

***“My GCC involvement has made it possible for me to live my Jewish values.”***

Mitch Wasserman, Core Team Member

Using the tools of community organizing, our congregations give power to disenfranchised individuals and communities. GCC represents an effective channel for structural change, turning our values into action by addressing systemic injustice in Greater Cleveland. Founded in 2011, GCC has served as the catalyst for reform in the areas of healthcare, education, criminal justice, gun violence, and jobs. We have made significant progress in bringing equity to many facets of our community, so we know the formula for success works. But there's so much more to be done.

We envision a community that works together to provide opportunities for all Greater Clevelanders so that we can all use our innate abilities to fight for communities that are healthy, equitable, powerful and filled with hope. To this end, GCC leverages the talent and experience that resides in each one of our member institutions.

***“GCC fits with my passion. I had no idea that one person could actually make a difference but I found out soon it could.”***

Jon Messer, Core Team Member

Each member GCC organization cultivates a Core Team of Leaders whose purpose is to listen to their fellow congregants, ascertain their interests, and focus energy. Local actions, and action in concert with other member organizations of GCC, achieve community power and create change.

## How Can You Get Involved with GCC?

GCC provides Fairmount Temple members with the opportunity to get involved with the social and economic issues they are passionate about. Our strength is in our members committed to confronting injustice with the power and mobility of all of our member organizations. Participation on the GCC Fairmount Temple Core Team brings our voice to the table.

**If you would like to learn more about the work of GCC at Fairmount Temple,** contact Rabbi Joshua Caruso (216-464-1330 or [Jcaruso@fairmounttemple.org](mailto:Jcaruso@fairmounttemple.org)), any of our Core Team members, or visit the GCC website:

[www.greaterclevelandcongregations.org](http://www.greaterclevelandcongregations.org)

***“My key motivation to join GCC was the VERY idea that a community-wide effort could actually take action and have an impact. IT HAS.”***

Leslie Kleinman, Core Team Member

**“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” - Margaret Mead**