Report from the GBIO Ministry Team  
August 2021

Through our collective and individual activities in the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO), we further our church’s mission of being "nourished by tradition, united by love, and striving to create a multicultural, spirit-filled community that works for justice, fosters spiritual curiosity and faith formation, shares joy heals brokenness, and celebrates the sacred in all."

Our purpose is to involve First Parish members and friends in GBIO’s interfaith relationship-building and social justice work. GBIO gets results by building and exercising power so that people’s lives within the Greater Boston region improve.

The GBIO Team offers opportunities to receive GBIO training in relationship and community building; get to know each other better through 1-1 conversations; communicate our ideas, suggestions, and personal stories to other GBIO members and leaders; meet and get to know people from other religious organizations; and participate in significant collective action on critical issues.

Our major activities from July 2020-August 2021 were:

- Participated in the health care campaign including distributing announcements; hosting discussions; sending emails; making phone calls; helping organize and attend GBIO events such as In-District Meetings (IDM) with state legislators; meeting with state legislators (July - December 2020; January 2021) that resulted in new state health care legislation;
- Participated in the police reform campaign including similar actions as listed in the health care campaign that resulted in far-reaching state legislation;
- Received GBIO training (June 16, 2020; anti-racism monthly training from January-March, 2021);
- January 2021: FPC’s weekly undesignated plate collections donated to GBIO; and
- Organized and conducted three “Listening Circles” in April and May 2021 (with 60 participants) to solicit congregants’ highest priority concerns/themes/issues that identify for us at First Parish and for GBIO to work on over the next several years;
- Many attended GBIO’s Delegate Assembly on June 7, 2021. Rashid Shaikh told one of several personal stories that illustrated concerns raised in Listening Circles.
- Participated in the GBIO Regional Meeting (Cambridge and Somerville) on June 22, 2021. Co-led by two members of First Parish (Lois Markham & Sharon deVos). 14 participated (some as facilitators and others as notetakers).
- August 12, 2021 GBIO Delegates Assembly.

Our future activities include:
- Collaborating on implementing the chosen high priority GBIO action steps;
- Continuing to reach into our church community by building closer relationships and engaging more people in GBIO-related events; and
• Identifying new leaders who take on various tasks in organizing, producing, facilitating, notetaking, timekeeping, inviting participants in our church activities.

**GBIO Task Force Core Members**
Elizabeth Kline, co-liaison to GBIO; member of the Racial Equity Team and Social Justice Council
Lois Markham, co-liaison to GBIO; member of the Racial Equity Team
Cassie White, Core Group leader
Marcia Hams, member of GBIO’s Health Care Strategy Team and Steering Team and Listening Circle Steering Team; Co-chair of Social Justice Council
Chris McElroy, former chair of the Board
Patrick Sullivan, member Beloved Conversations Graduates
Alison Altman, member of the Environmental Justice Team
Jenny Fitch, member of the Worship Team
Juliette Cusick, relatively new member
Rob Moir, member of the Environmental Justice and Beyond Borders
Sonia Voskuil, relatively new member
Rosalie Anders, Co-chair of Social Justice Council; member of the Environmental Justice Team
Sharon DeVos, co-lead at First Parish with Marcia Hams on GBIO’s Health Care initiative
Rashid Shaikh, former chair of the Board; Racial Equity Team member; 8th Principle Working Group Co-chair
Tod Hibbard, chair of the Development Management Team, Board member