Core Values

Human Dignity
We value the human dignity of each person and insist upon laws and policies that protect the vulnerable and powerless.

Justice
We work passionately to bring about a community of right relationship; where each person contributes to and benefits from the common good.

Democratic Participation
We value the contributions of citizens who govern our state so that, together, we protect human dignity and build up the common good.

Spirituality of Dialogue
We value the many ways we listen and learn from each other and draw upon the wisdom of diverse faith traditions.

Prophetic Leadership
We understand the indispensable role of religious communities to speak out effectively when our institutions or policies drift away from justice.

Credibility
We value JRLC’s ability to base its work on facts and evidence, careful research, and a willingness to listen to a variety of voices, and creativity of our proposals.

Action
We value JRLC members combining passion with moral values and acting boldly for the sake of justice in the public arena.

Leadership Development
We value the leadership role of JRLC’s members and their ability to work in congregations and other settings to strengthen our voice for social justice.
The Theme for our 2022 Day on the Hill was For Such a Time As This. Indeed, these are challenging times – recovering from a pandemic, families struggling, and increased divisiveness across our state and country. Working for all Minnesotans to thrive isn’t partisan or tied to a single faith tradition.

Your voices - faithful Minnesotans sharing your stories– are more important than ever. Over the past 50 years, the JRLC has been a leader in working to raise the minimum wage, increase support to our poorest Minnesota families, improve access to child care, and find common ground across party lines.

All our faith traditions recognize the importance and dignity of each human being and call on each of us to use our time, talent and treasure to make our state a better, stronger, more welcoming place for ALL who live here, without regard to income, race, politics or geography.

As we finalize a new strategic plan and hire a new Executive Director, we are grateful for all of you. Your relationships with legislators, emails, donations and prayers are key to our ongoing success.

We look forward to continuing to be partners with you in this work.

The JRLC Board
Day on the Hill 2022

Members from across Minnesota gathered virtually on March 15th to learn and mobilize as part of our annual lobby day.

Keynote Speaker Maharat Rori Picker Neiss inspired with her deep faith and insightful comments on our call to advocate for others in these challenging times.

We shared our legislative priorities:
• Sacred Communities (Tiny Homes)
• Affordable Child Care
• Opposition to Gambling Expansion
• Emergency Shelter and Affordable Housing

Attendees heard from persons with lived experience and were briefed on JRLC priorities before advocates held meetings with their senators and representatives.
The Joint Religious Education and Research Fund

THE JOINT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND RESEARCH FUND (JRERF) was formed in 1982 to support the non-lobbying activities of the JRLC. The JRERF supports policy research and publications, education, internships and conferences to further interfaith relations and social justice in Minnesota.

During 2021 and 2022, the JRERF supported extensive research on housing issues and was a key component of our Housing Webinar Series and legislative materials.

Over the past several years, influential work on economic stability, affordable housing, asset building, child care and other poverty-related issues have been made possible because of gifts to the JRERF.

Protestant, Catholic, Islamic and Jewish leaders affiliated with the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition guide the work of the JRERF. We consistently find common ground and produce solid research and policy recommendations.

Minnesota’s civic climate is strengthened by this important cooperative, interfaith organization. Donors to the JRERF are listed in this annual report.
Thank you JRLC Donors

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