

Religious
Coalition
for Reproductive
Choice



2017
ANNUAL REPORT





from **Katey Zeh**

Over the past nine years, I've been honored to serve on RCRC's board, including the past two years as chair.

I've had many opportunities to help guide RCRC and to see the organization grow and develop. New executive leadership is crucial to our cause in a political climate that has shifted rapidly. This new leadership, updated programs and reinvigorated communications are a few signs of RCRC's recent progress.

A highlight of this past year was celebrating the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Clergy Consultation Service (CCS), our forerunner. Its members were ministers and rabbis who, before Roe v. Wade, defied abortion bans they considered unjust. The CCS history is a rallying point and an inspiration now that we face heightened threats to hard-won reproductive freedoms.

Our progressive, interfaith message supporting reproductive health, rights and justice is crucial in this battle. As I leave the board, I look ahead with confidence that RCRC's new board chair, Rev. Linda Jaramillo, brings the combination of faith, advocacy and leadership RCRC needs for the future.

Rev. Katey Zeh
Outgoing Chairperson

from **Linda Jaramillo**

It is an honor to serve as Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (RCRC). My life-long commitment to justice is fundamentally consistent with the historic mission of RCRC. The voice of people of faith has always been essential to the reproductive choice and justice movement; however, never has it been more urgent for us to be heard.

RCRC's leaders stand on the shoulders of progressive interfaith clergy whose work blossomed into what we are today. We continue to live into our intercultural and interfaith values by electing board leaders who personify our diversity. It is a privilege to work with our board executive committee made up of Dr. Willie Parker, Rev. Bill Sinkford, and Deborah Tanno, who offer a depth of wisdom and experience in leading religious and secular organizations.

Collaboration is a hallmark of today's RCRC. Our dynamic board regularly engages our governance responsibilities in support of our three-person executive management team who lead our staff in day to day functions. RCRC is further strengthened through building and nurturing relationships with affiliates throughout the country.

We boldly claim our solidarity with women, the most affected by this social and political climate that threatens reproductive choice and justice. We must be heard in homes, in pews, in pulpits, and in the public square – locally and nationally. We must claim our truth, our strength, and our power as people of faith. We welcome your ongoing support, your action and your prayers.

Rev. Linda Jaramillo

Incoming Chairperson



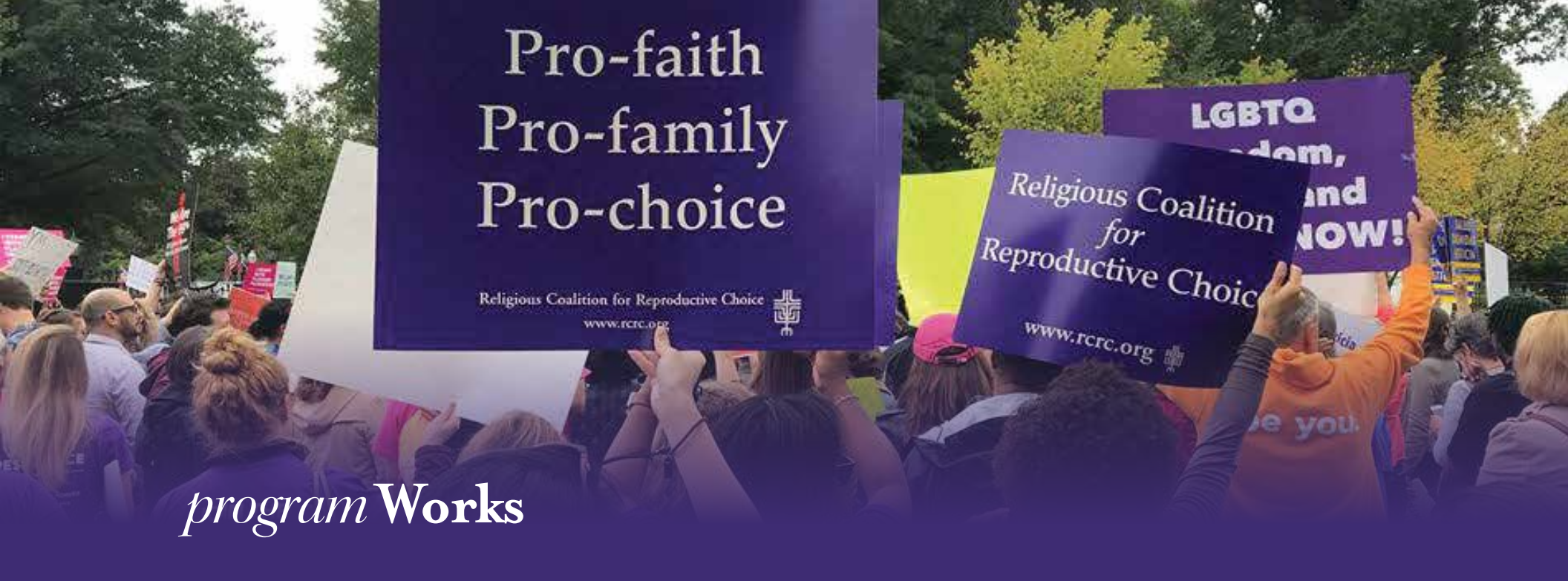
tri-Executives

We are delighted to share the results of an exciting year for RCRC, starting with our unique clinic blessing and continuing with a successful series of compassionate care trainings, base building initiatives, and long-term program design work.

This first year of our new tri-executive management structure has successfully delivered a multi-disciplinary strategic and management approach that's led to greater program and operational impact. Our media outreach efforts have generated a remarkable increase in media coverage and social media engagement. We have also continued to strengthen key areas of work that underpin RCRC's long term goals and impact with new strategic initiatives in partnership building, fundraising, and financial management.

With your activism and generous support, we look forward to another year of even greater impact and success!





program Works



Communications

In 2017 we gained traction with journalists in both secular and religious media. We created and expanded our national media list and communicated regularly with journalists who cover our issues. We actively monitored current events using state-of-the-art tools, enabling us to respond even more rapidly and proactively to news as it unfolded. Our media mentions increased significantly as did our activity and followers across all social media platforms. We garnered coverage in *Colorlines*, *The Nation*, *Mother Jones*, *The Progressive*, *Huffington Post* and *Christian Post*.



Compassionate Care

There is a large need for a spiritual/religious presence that helps sustain communities and movements in these challenging times. In addition to the regular trainings we held throughout the country in 2017, RCRC also convened to deepen our understanding of the relationship between pastoral and community care. We expanded the training participant audience to include social workers, physicians, clinic workers and other helping professionals in addition to spiritual leaders from a diverse range of faith traditions, updated and renamed the program to *Compassionate Care for Reproductive Loss and Decision Making*.



Clergy Consultation Service (CCS)

This year marked the 50th anniversary of the Clergy Consultation Service (CCS), the advocacy group from which RCRC was born. The CCS was the underground network of religious leaders created before *Roe v. Wade* to ensure that women could have all-options spiritual counseling and, if they chose, a referral to a safe abortion provider. RCRC and Judson Memorial (congregational home of both the CCS and RCRC founder Howard Moody) joined together in May 2017 to celebrate and honor the CCS's 50th anniversary. Dr. Willie Parker, RCRC Board member and author of *Life's Work: A Moral Argument for Choice*, delivered a moving sermon at the commemoration service.

The CCS's legacy makes it clear that religious leaders have a history of taking profound and uncompromising risks to help people access safe and legal abortions. As our past becomes our current reality, their example and presence in the DNA of RCRC is more important than ever. Our work with Judson and CCS members deeply influences our strategies and thinking around how we'll take on the current challenges. As such, you should expect to see even more amplification and risk taking from us in the years to follow!



Clinic Blessings

Engaging with religious and secular organizations to engage in bold acts of moral courage is one of RCRC's major areas of focus for the next few years. Our clinic blessing work is a stellar example of this. In January 2017 we partnered with two prominent local faith leaders, Rev. Drs. Christine and Dennis Wiley of Covenant Baptist Church in Washington DC, and Planned Parenthood Metropolitan Washington to hold a successful clinic blessing.

This blessing, and the media attention it garnered, began to shift the discourse around religion and reproductive freedom, as we continue to make an increasingly vocal religious case for reproductive health, rights, and justice. Our clinic blessing project is proving to us and to our movement that positioning progressive religious leaders to deliver messages of compassion, love, and justice in deeply meaningful ways is the most effective way for RCRC to live into our prophetic voice and help win this issue.

33%

in religious leaders and people of faith trained in compassionate care.

50%

increase in local and state faith-based partnerships.

33%

increase in interactions with reproductive healthcare centers and abortion care providers.



56%

increase in monthly donors.

48%

of donors have been giving for more than 16 years.

7%

increase in total donations.

6

loyal donors have been giving for more than 37 years, since 1980.

150%

increase in social media reach.

100 mil

potential audience reach from news outlets.

35%

increase in social media followers.





Partnerships

RCRC values our innovative collaborations and believes that when we partner with religious organizations and leaders, seminaries, theologians, congregations, denominations and secular organizations, we make our movement stronger and our impact greater.

Throughout the year we partnered with some extraordinary organizations and leaders, including:

Planned Parenthood Metropolitan Washington, Judson Memorial Church, Auburn Seminary, Political Research Associates, Rev. Drs. Christine and Dennis Wiley from Covenant Baptist Church, Rabbi Michael Namath from Religious Action Center, San Diego Planned Parenthood Affiliate, Faith in Women, Samuel Dewitt Proctor Conference, Catholics for Choice, Mollie Katz Communications, Collabyrinth, The CP Factor, Michael LaCour LLP, Bennett Street Media, Brian Larsen, Berces Design, and theologians including: Rev. Dr. Gabriella Lettini, Professor at Starr King School of Ministry of the Unitarian Universalist Church, Dr. Daniel Maguire, Professor at Marquette University, Rev. Barbara Gerlach, Clergy Consultation Service activist and UCC clergy, and Dr. Monique Moultrie, Professor at Georgia State University.

We extend our gratitude to all of our 2017 partners for their dedication and commitment to working together for reproductive health, rights and justice.

deep Gratitude

Foundations

Anne Hale Johnson
Anonymous
Carpenter
General Services
Gibbs/ Green Fund
L&D Goldman
Martin & Brown
Packard
Prentice
Reynolds Family Foundation

UMC Annual Conferences

California - Nevada
New England
New York
Oregon-Idaho
Rocky Mountain
The Pacific Northwest

Congregations

Baltimore Hebrew Congregation
Sisterhood, MD
Kings Highway United
Methodist, NY
Pilgrim United Church of
Christ, CA
UCC Women of Michigan, MI
Unitarian Universalist Church
at Washington Crossing
NJ Unitarian Universalist
Church of Rockville, MD
Unitarian Universalist Women
of Greater Lynn, MA
Unitarian Universalist Women's
Connection, IL
United Methodist Women
of Sparta, NJ

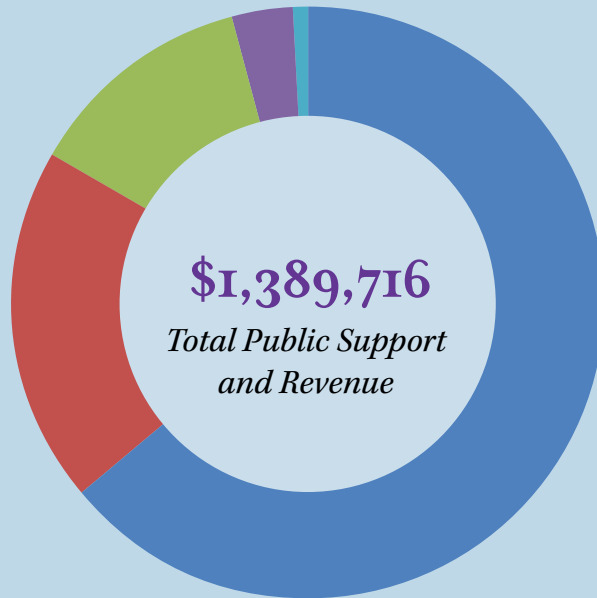
Major Donors

Curtis & Eva Aanenson
Joel Abrams
Geri Alpert
Nancy Baker (Deceased)
Allen Baum
Anne Behler (Deceased)
Libby Bortz
Leigh Cheesebro
Henry Davis (Deceased)
Josephine De Give
Rev. James Donnell
Lucinda Dudley
Renee Fertig
Sharon Fortin
Mary Foutz
Richard Friedberg
Jackie Friend
Pamela Garrison
Suzanne Gouvernet
Roger & Joan Grimm
Ann Harmon Lehman
Carolyn Healy
Charles Hedberg
Don Henley

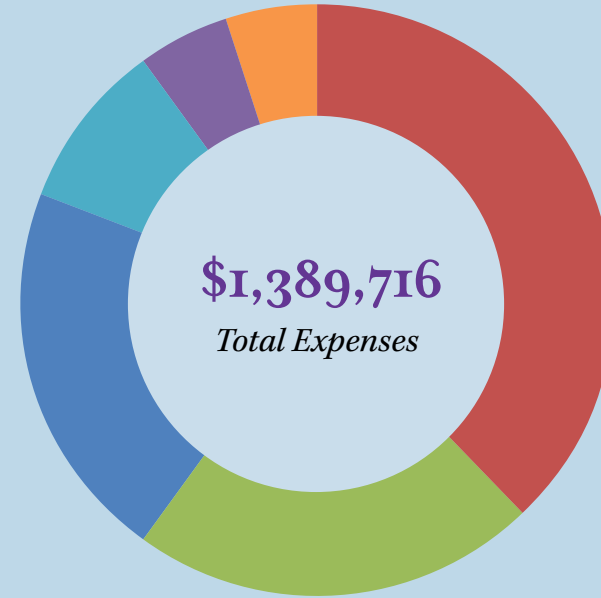
Alan & Judith Hoffman
Betty Hoskins (Deceased)
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Donald and Mary Koss
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John & Pamela Lindstrom
Sarah Ludwig
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Robert & Anita Norman
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Alicia Ostriker
Gay Block & Billie Parker

John Parker
Joseph Parsons
Rebecca Todd Peters
Katharine Pierce
Anne Pierson
Sandford & Laurayne Ratner
Lilith Ren
Anne Riley
Deborah Roach
Judith Rosen
James & Marjory Russell
Diana Sattelberger
Jerri Shaw
Robert Silverman
Vickie Simpson
Susan Steinhauser
Valerie Tarico
Denise Ward
Alice Weston
Sue Williams
Raleigh Wilson
Melissa Winham
Donald Woodhull
David & Frances F. Yelen

2017 Financial Statement



- 64% *Private Foundations*
- 20% *Individuals*
- 12% *Bequests*
- 3% *Use of Prior Year Surplus*
- 1% *Interest and Miscellaneous*



- 38% *Public Witness*
- 22% *Education/Visibility*
- 21% *Southern Program*
- 9% *Fundraising*
- 5% *Capacity Building*
- 5% *Administration*



Board *of* Directors *and* Staff

2017 Board of Directors

Rev. M. Linda Jaramillo
Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Kaeton
Dr. Willie J. Parker
Joan Lamunyon Sanford
Bishop John Selders
Rev. Madison Shockley, II
Rev. Dr. Bill Sinkford
Deborah Tanno
Katey Zeh

2017 Staff

Delia Allen-O'Brien
Executive for Operations and Finance

Rev. Dr. Cari Jackson
Executive for Religious Leadership
and Advocacy

Melanie Bui Larsen
Director of Operations

Chauna Lawson
Office Manager / Operations Associate

Carolyn Miller
Accountant

Lisa Weiner-Mahfuz
Executive for Programs and
Strategic Partnerships

Charity Woods
Director of Southern Programs

Founding members

The following organizations served as the founding members of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice.

American Jewish Committee
American Jewish Congress
Anti-Defamation League
Catholics for Choice
Central Conference of American Rabbis
Disciples for Choice
Episcopal Church
Episcopal Women's Caucus
Jewish Reconstructionist Movement
Jewish Women International
Lutheran Women's Caucus
Methodist Federation for Social Action
Metropolitan Community Church
NAAMAT USA

National Council of Jewish Women
Presbyterian Mission Agency
Presbyterians Affirming Reproductive Options (PARO)
Rabbinical Assembly
Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association
Society for Humanistic Judaism
Union for Reform Judaism
Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations
Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation
United Church of Christ
United Methodist Women
Women of Reform Judaism
Women's League for Conservative Judaism



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RCRC Affiliates

California RCRC
Colorado RCRC
Connecticut RCRC
Illinois RCRC
Indiana RCRC
Kentucky RCRC
Minnesota RCRC
New Mexico RCRC
Ohio RCRC
Oklahoma RCRC
Pennsylvania RCRC
Wisconsin RCRC