



# ANNUAL REPORT

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# MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

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Dear Friends,

Compassion. That complex, rich, and ancient value has surfaced again and again as we have struggled to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic and all of the impact that it's had on our lives and livelihoods, our families and our communities. What has become clear is that compassion is not merely a feeling. It's an active way of being—one that we strive to embody at the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (RCRC).

As we see ever more clearly the impacts of complex, interlocking systems of injustice, RCRC continues to seek the kind of world we all long to inhabit: one in which every person has everything they need to live with dignity, joy, and freedom. Holding onto this hopefully vision requires spiritual discipline. We must ask ourselves again and again, Who are we being called to be in this moment? What does it mean for us to live into compassion in the ways that we show up in the world?

In 2020 we held our first ever Blessings and Affirmations for Reproductive Care, a virtual event organized with partners and led by clergy to honor abortion providers and clinic staff as they faced the challenges of providing abortion care during the COVID-19 pandemic.



**"What does it mean for us to live into compassion in the ways that we show up in the world?"**

We held rituals of blessing for more than 200 abortion staff from Planned Parenthood affiliates across the country. Our Compassionate Care graduates continued to offer care virtually to those making reproductive decisions in the midst of a global health crisis.

Last fall we launched our first ever online course last fall called Compassion School, a free virtual learning opportunity open to all who long for a more compassionate and just society. What we learned is that people are hungry for these kinds of educational resources that are accessible from anywhere in the world. We were inspired to create our Religion and Repro Learning Center, a virtual space for advocates to learn, engage, and build skills around religion and reproductive freedom.

The challenges of the last year have not only shaped the ways that we do our work. They have also caused us to pause and to reflect on our rich history. With our deep roots in the Clergy Consultation Service on Abortion, we remember those who courageously came before us. We seek to be the kind of caregivers who lovingly support those who make reproductive decisions and provide essential health services. We live into the call to connect advocates who foster communities rooted in compassion and justice. We continue to speak sacred truth in the face of shame, stigma, and silence perpetuated by some religious communities, and we stand up to the political leaders who weaponize religious freedom and perpetuate reproductive oppression while neglecting the needs of those who are suffering the most.

As we face devastating state bans on abortion and a major challenge to abortion rights at the Supreme Court this year, we know that our work has always been daunting. No matter what, we will continue building the world we dare to imagine is possible.

In solidarity,

Rev. Katey Zeh  
Chief Executive Officer

# COVID RESPONSE

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## PROVIDING SPIRITUAL CARE



### 1:1 CONNECTIONS

Graduates of RCRC's Compassionate Care workshop began offering spiritual care to those whose reproductive lives have been affected by the COVID-19 crisis, along with frontline caregivers and staff at reproductive health clinics.



### VIRTUAL BLESSINGS AND AFFIRMATIONS

RCRC held our first ever Blessings and Affirmations for Reproductive Care virtual event, in conjunction with RCRC Ohio, Just Texas: Faith Voices for Reproductive Justice, National Abortion Federation, and Planned Parenthood Federation of America, where clergy of many faiths honored and uplifted the service of abortion providers and staff during this national crisis.

We organized a celebration of Louisiana's Hope Medical Group for Women in honor of their 40 years of operation providing compassionate and essential abortion care to their community despite the uniquely hostile climate.

We provided two virtual Rituals & Blessings ceremonies to provide spiritual grounding and affirmation to the students of Planned Parenthood's Abortion School.



### SPIRITUAL RESOURCES

RCRC updated our virtual multi faith prayers and litanies and faith perspectives on abortion for increased accessibility to those who need them. We also co-sponsored the #SustainingCommunities campaign, which provided community and resources for self-care during quarantine.

# COVID RESPONSE

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## MOVING LEARNING ONLINE



### COMPASSION SCHOOL

We debuted Compassion School, a free virtual learning opportunity intended to equip more people with tools to shape a compassionate society.

We brought in thought leaders across disciplines of neuropsychology, anthropology, sociology, and religion to discuss and explore the ways in which compassion shapes our culture, our relationships, and our very selves, and how we might cultivate more compassion in our daily lives.



### RELIGION AND REPRO LEARNING CENTER

RCRC launched a one-of-a-kind online venue for education, analysis, and strategy development to equip religious leaders, scholars, and social activists in support of reproductive freedom.

This online hub offers an ongoing public webinar series, a free online resource library, and self-paced, cutting-edge online courses covering a variety of topics related to faith, reproductive freedom, race, gender, politics, and more.

# STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS

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We gathered with our network of RCRC state affiliates and local community partners to begin an ongoing examination of whiteness and how it shows up in reproductive freedom work, along with what is required for genuine white allyship and accountability.

RCRC undertook additional accountability work, alongside Faith in Women, within a group of state and national repro orgs that met to open up dialogue about people's individual anti-racism work. Our CEO also joined a group of white CEOs of national repro orgs to confront white supremacy and brainstorm how to leverage their platforms to transform the culture of the movement.

In addition to these efforts, RCRC collaborated with a diverse group of progressive organizations within and across movements in 2020 to continue building community and organizing power:

**National Abortion Federation**

**Texas Freedom Network**

**Center for Reproductive Rights**

**Faith in Women**

**Planned Parenthood**

**Political Research Associates**

**Whole Woman's Health  
Political Research Associates**

**Project Blitz Watch**

**American Atheists**

**Protecting Religious Freedom  
for Everyone Collaborative**

**Faith in Public Life**

# GRATITUDE

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## Major Donors

Mr. and Ms. Curtis Aanenson

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Marilyn and Saul Spilke

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Aletta Wilson

Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Winsberg

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# GRATITUDE, cont.

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## Foundations

Martin and Brown Foundation

The David and Lucille Packard Foundation

The Green Fund, Inc.

Berman Field Foundation

Reynolds Family Foundation

## Trusts & Funds

Archilee Sullivan 1997 Charitable Trust

David F. and Sara K. Weston Fund

Doris and Lloyd Eddins Trust

Henrietta Hodge Estate

The/Kastin Charitable Remainder Unitrust

## Congregations

UCC Justice and Witness Ministries

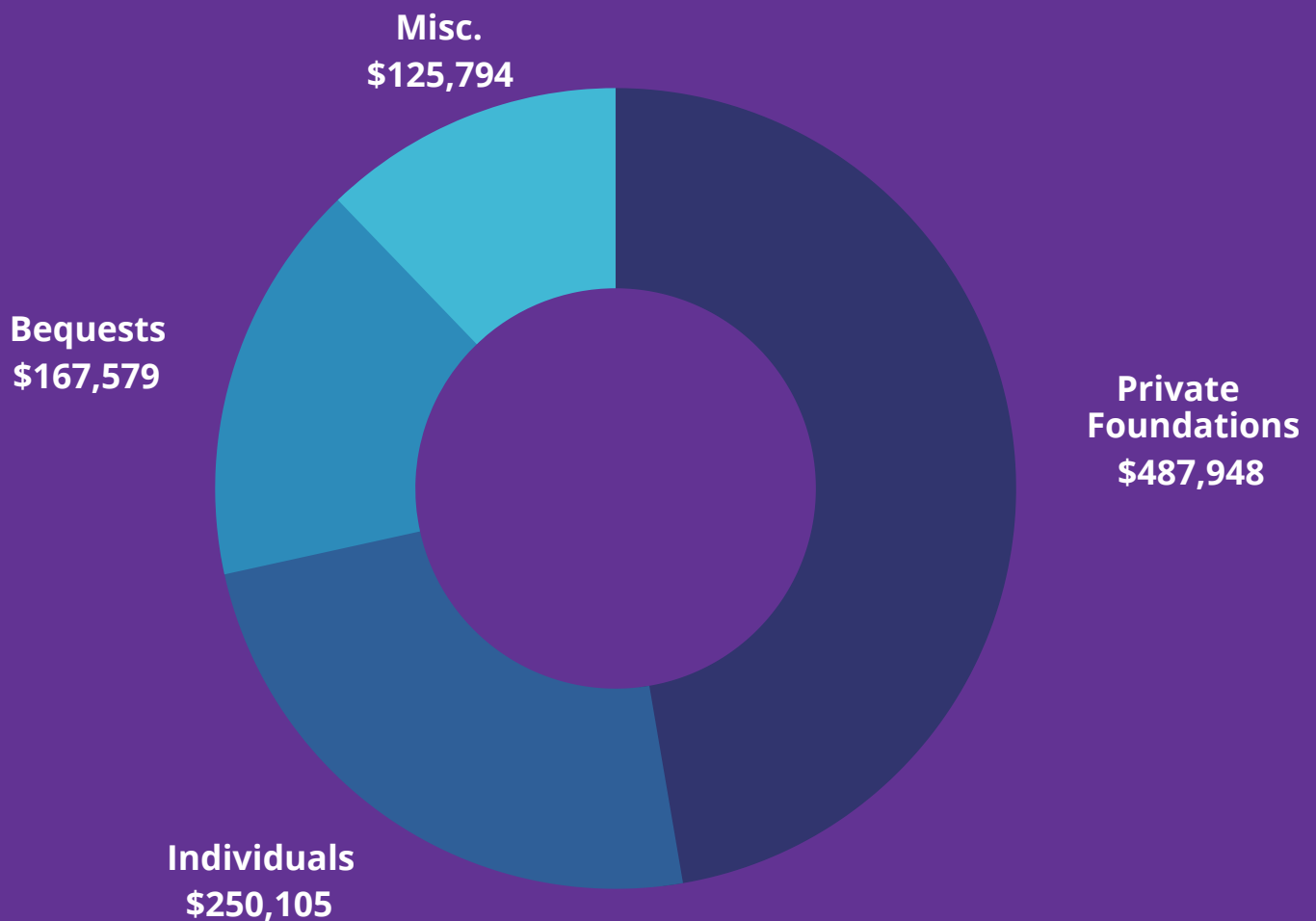
First Congregational UCC

# 2020 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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## 2020 Support and Revenues

\$1,031,426

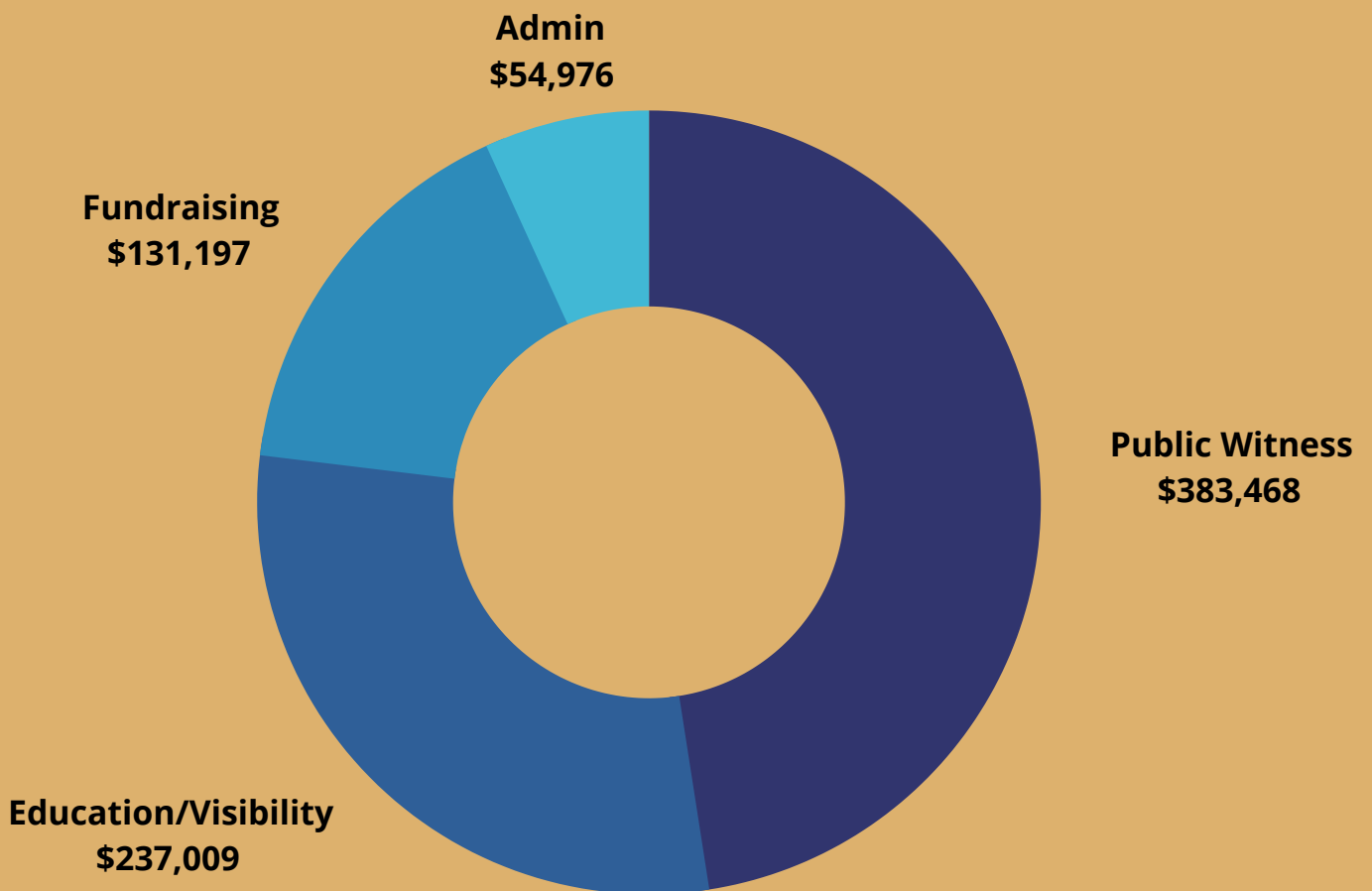


# 2020 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, cont.

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## 2020 Expenses

\$806,650



# 2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Deborah Tanno**, *Treasurer*

**Dr. Sue Ellen Braunlin**

**Dr. Gill Frank**

**Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Kaeton**

**Bishop John Selders**

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# 2020 STAFF

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**Rev. Dr. Cari Jackson**

*Director of Spiritual Care and Activism*

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**Carolyn Miller**

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**Rev. Katey Zeh**

*Interim Chief Executive Officer*