

December 2022

www.faithinactionalabama.org



Faith Annual

2022 in Action Alabama Report



Our mission is to honor God by dismantling systemic racism to create pathways of opportunity for all Alabamians.

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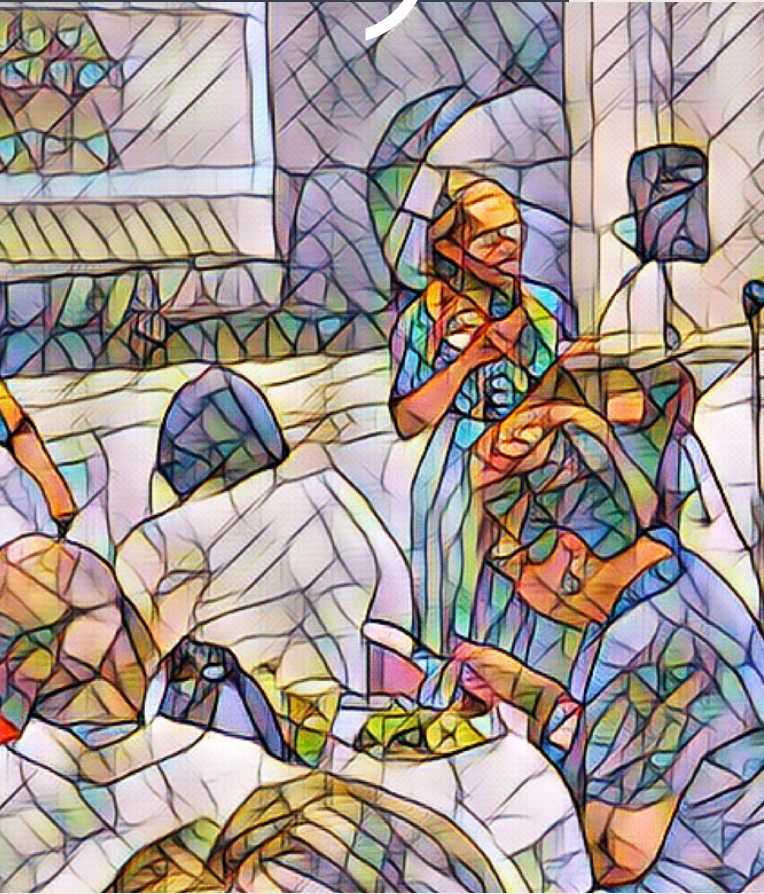
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Who We Are

Faith in Action Alabama (FIAAL) is an organized, motivated group of faithful volunteers, leaders, and staff, who work to fundamentally improve the lives of Alabamians across race and zip code lines. FIAAL is a political and spiritual home of people from all faith backgrounds who are called to:

- **promote** economic and racial justice to ensure all Alabamians have authentic access to opportunity
- **ensure** communities are architects, and not objects, of policies
- **build a** community that unites, rather than divides people from different races and faiths

Where to find FIAAL

We have members across the state!

Members in Mobile, Montgomery, Birmingham, Huntsville & elsewhere meet in-person and virtually to learn about issues and plan campaigns. Email info@fiaal.org or use the QR code to contact us!

Connect with us online

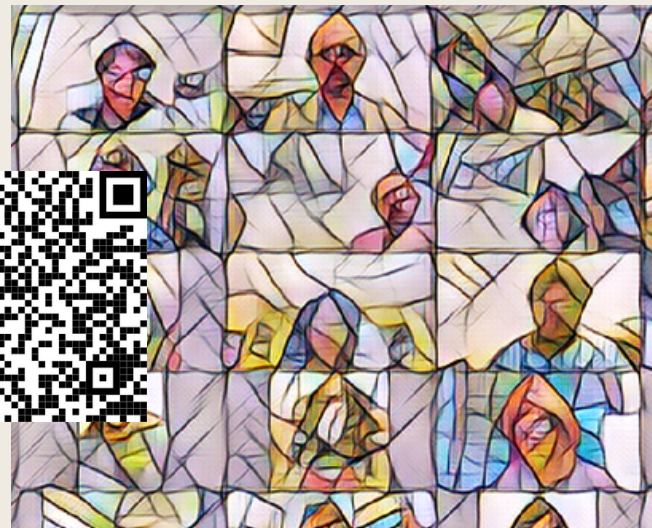
Facebook @faithinactional
 Instagram @faithinactionalabama
 Twitter @faithinactional

Become part of our virtual network

www.fiaal.org

Become a member of FIAAL

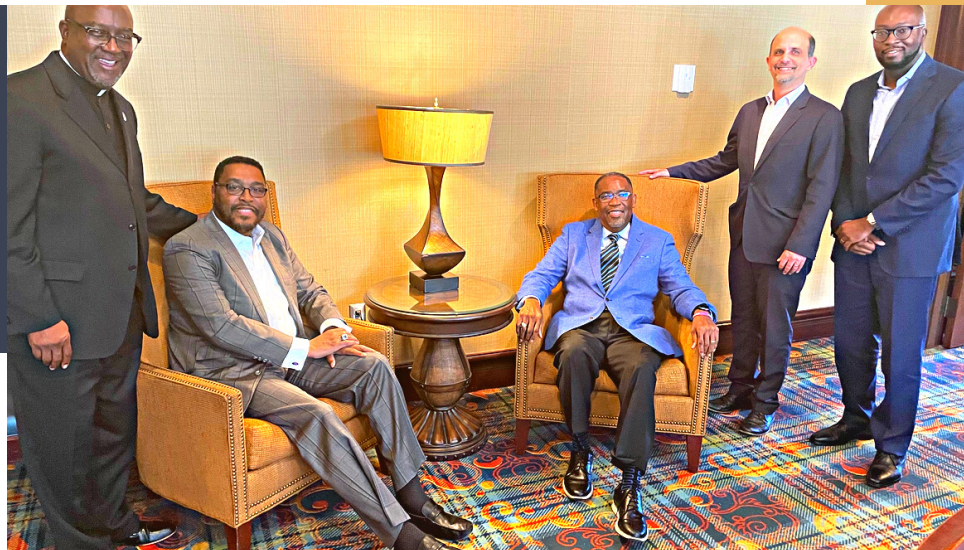
Support us as Dreamer or Sustainer!



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Message from the Executive Director



FIAAL Executive Director Daniel Schwarz (2nd from right) gathered with (from left to right) Father Manuel Williams of Resurrection Catholic Church in Montgomery, Bishop George Crenshaw of the Alabama-Florida District of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Bishop Harry Seawright of the 9th District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and Reverend Jeremiah Chester of St. Mark Baptist Church in Huntsville.

We pray you and your loved ones are well. Faith in Action Alabama strives every day to make the prophetic vision of shalom a lived reality here in Alabama. We seek to honor the God of Liberation by promoting and helping to make community safety, liberty, and democracy a lived reality across zip code and race lines throughout Alabama.

Our vision and work are anchored by our volunteer leaders who are from diverse congregations of different faith traditions. With the support of our community organizing staff team, our leaders engage their communities to learn about their aspirations and concerns and implement campaigns informed by those learnings. Like faith, you cannot outsource democracy.

In the coming pages, you will learn more about our current successes and goals, and I invite you to join this incredible group as a volunteer leader, supporter, or donor when you hear the God of Liberation calling you!

Daniel J. Schwartz
Executive Director

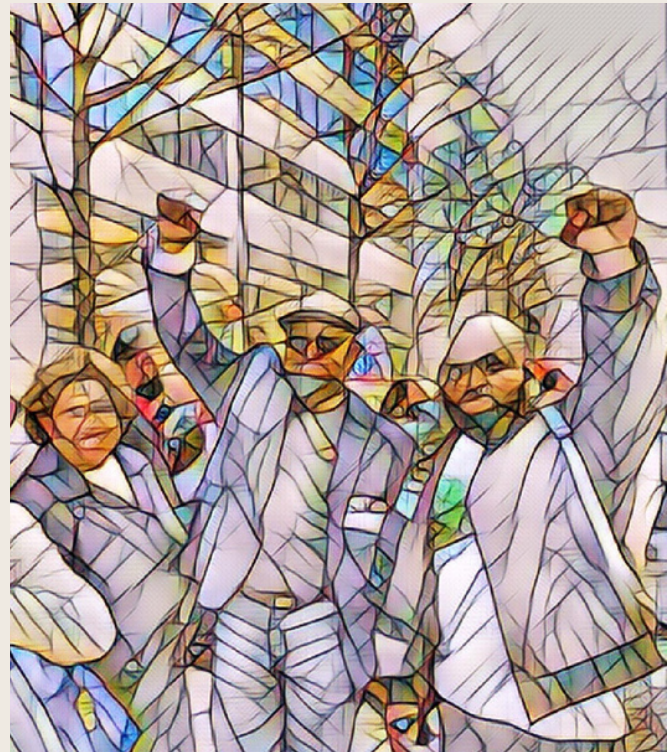


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A Year in Review



Faith in Action Alabama's
Successes & Blessings in 2022



Almost \$ 1 Million committed for Hospital-based
Violence Intervention Program in Montgomery

Partnership with Alabama Sherriffs' Association to
assure VOCA* access to victims of violence

Year-round Voter Engagement launched – dozens of
newly trained volunteers contacted 1000s of voters

1129 contacts, 386 conversations, 162 filled research
request, 67 voter registrations, and 41 CERV**
applications for formerly incarcerated individuals

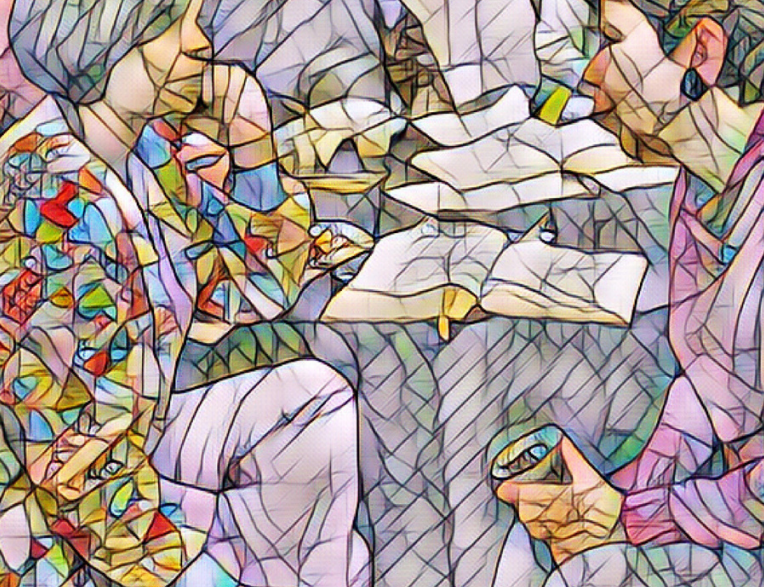
The People's Agenda Campaign – 45 Listening
sessions engaging 433 Alabamians – culminated with
a LIVE Action attended by 745 people from across AL

Successfully navigated the return to a hybrid
workplace after 2 years of remote work

*VOCA: Victims of Crime Act

**CERV: Certificate of
Eligibility to Register to Vote





Montgomery Hub

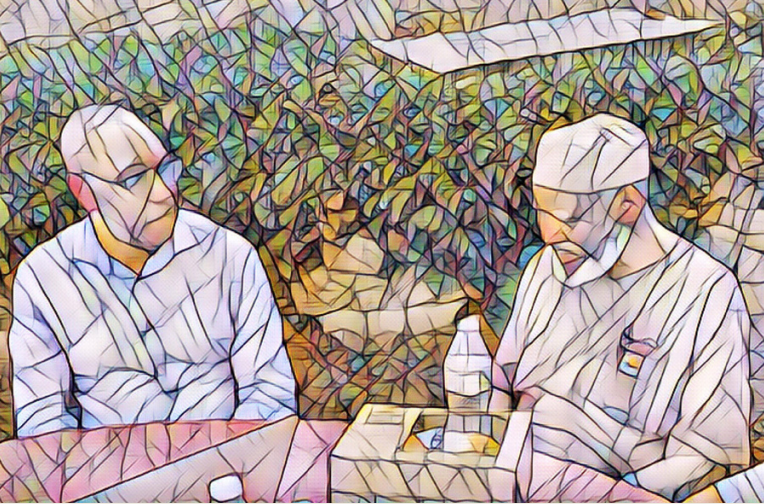
2022 was a year of collaboration for the Faith in Action Alabama Montgomery Hub!

- With Community Victims Response Team (CVRT), we compiled materials on victim response that Sheriff Jay Jones presented at 2022 Alabama Summer Sheriffs Conference.
- Through a United Way of Central Alabama partner, we got our hotline and CVRT resources listed on Alabama's 211 Connects database to better assist victims of crime.
- We started weekly NIGHT WALKS on the Westgate neighborhood. Bonds are strengthening and relationships continue to grow in the neighborhood.
- Community Violence Intervention (CVI) programs make a difference for families and individuals by reducing traumatic injury and save tens of millions of dollars. The FIAAL Montgomery Hub connected impacted community members with City and County officials and worked with the National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform to deliver the "Cost of Gun Violence in the city of Montgomery" report. Happily, the City Council and County Commission approved up to \$973,000 to be allocated for a hybrid CVI program!

Mobile Hub

The Mobile Hub persevered through 2022 with strength, purpose and promise. In a post pandemic world, most organizations face issues of participation, involvement and consistency. However, at FIAAL because of the love of the WORK, people & lives were changed.

- We continue to meet regularly with officials at the Mobile County Public Defender's Office. Created in 2019 after a successful advocacy campaign by FIAAL leaders and others, the office is now fully-funded, with over 50 attorneys and staff committed to ensuring that indigent defendants in Mobile receive high quality legal representation.
- We were instrumental in creating new partnerships, such as the 251 THINKTANK, which centered around voter apathy and empowerment in Mobile County. Over 50 community thinkers and movers will continue collaborating in 2023.
- And when we reintroduced our work at the West Alabama Annual Conference of the AME Zion Church, over 45 individuals expressed a desire to be a part of the FIAAL Movement.
- As we celebrated WIND at the End of the Year Celebration, we all gained FRESH WIND for the Work ahead.



Reports from the FIAAL Hubs

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Huntsville Hub

Volunteer leaders are at the center of what we do, and the Huntsville Hub is so happy to welcome Betty Latoya as a new leader of the Peacemaker/Victim Response Team and Nercrisha Hope Wallace to the FIAAL Voter Rights Restoration Steering Committee. Additionally, FIAAL was able to advocate in court on behalf of an FIAAL volunteer leader; the Judge knew of Faith in Action Alabama's work; and this person is now free with no pending charges. Through the creativity, hard work, and research of our volunteer leaders, campaigns revved up:

- Peacemakers established presence with night walks from April to September, and the Peacemakers Community Roundtable met with Huntsville City Councilperson Devyn Keith.
- Diversion With Dignity campaign held 7 (seven!) research actions with city, county & state public officials, completed research on national diversion programs, began building a state-wide coalition, and encouraged the Huntsville Police Department to participate in the nationwide Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program.
- On August 22, FIAAL held a Direct Action following up on the People's Agenda Campaign and bringing awareness to the new legal definition Crimes of Moral Turpitude.

Birmingham Hub

The Birmingham Hub of Faith in Action Alabama saw significant progress in 2022:

- We established fruitful relationships with six area congregations: Mount Hebron Baptist, Mount Moriah Baptist, First Baptist East Thomas, Taylor Chapel AME Zion, Payne Chapel AME, and South Highland Presbyterian, as well as strengthened existing relationships with Temple Beth-El and Bethel AME Zion Church.
- We worked with the Community Roundtable to establish service providers for Birmingham's Community Violence Interruption program, including the Offender Alumni Association, What About Us, and Brother Let's Talk.
- We helped secure passage of legislation that streamlined the review process for applicants of the Victim of Crimes Act compensation fund.
- We saw our first success in the House with the Voter Rights Restoration Bill that passed the House Judiciary Committee.
- Our Voter Rights Restoration Team members had conversations with 386 formerly incarcerated individuals, processed 162 research requests, registered 67 voters, and submitted 41 CERV applications.



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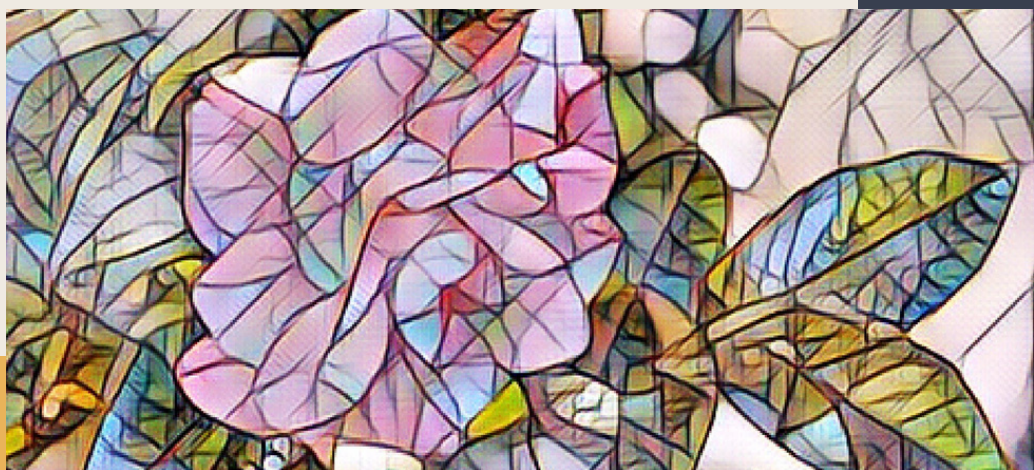


Big Things Happening in 2023

Faith in Action Alabama's goals for this year are audacious and build upon our previous successes! We will:

- Secure passage of voter rights state legislation for formerly incarcerated individuals.
- Operate our first full year-round voter engagement campaign through the state, expanded from 4 months before an election.
- Win support of the city of Mobile to fund an evidence-based anti-gun violence strategy.
- Hold a multi-day community organizing training for at least 100 lay people and one-day training for clergy. This will be done to build out our capacity to powerfully advocate at the local and state levels.
- Raise at least \$200,000 in individual and congregational donations
- Finalize Faith in Action Alabama's 5-year strategic plan.

Action Needed for
Voter Rights
Restoration in
March & April
2023!





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Big Things Happening in 2023

Voter Rights Restoration Bill: From Bill to Law in 2023 with Your Help!

Big Audacious Goal

Pass a State Bill to remove barriers to voting rights for formerly incarcerated individuals.

2023 To Do List

1. Meet with stakeholders
Jan. 23 - March 30
2. Massive Weekly Action!

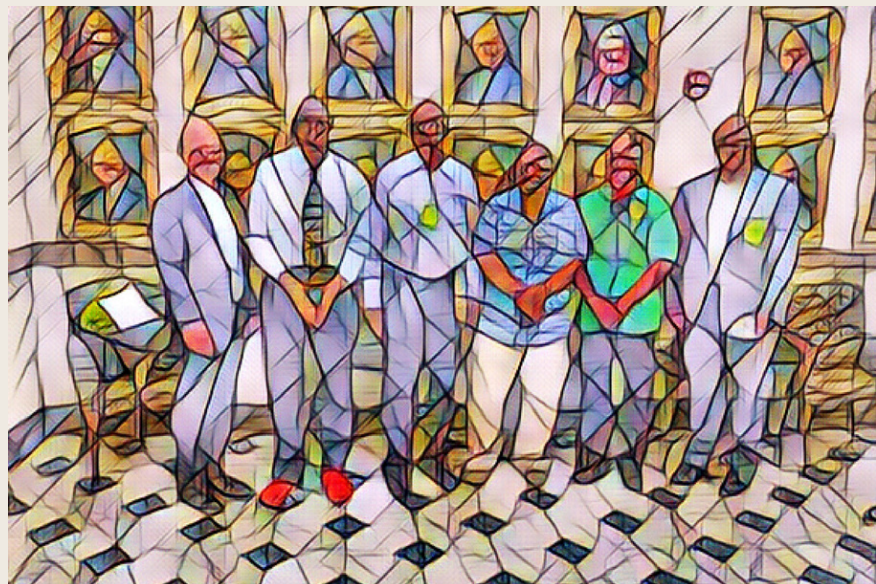
A Brief Bill History

Written & passed Senate with bipartisan support in 2020 & 2021.
Made it out of the House Judiciary Committee in 2022, but stalled.
In 2023, the House will finally vote.
The outcome of that vote is up to you!

Join Us Each Wednesday!

8 March Clergy Convergence
15 March Written Letters
22 March Emails
29 March Phone Calls
19 April Legislative Day
26 April Final Push

Email jaigregory@fiaal.org to
be on the Action Team!





A Message of Hope and Action for 2023



President of the Board of Directors of Faith in Action Alabama, Dr. A.B. Sutton Jr., addresses hundreds gathered for the Great Reveal of the People's Agenda in Montgomery, AL on March 25, 2023.

We would like to conclude this letter with our sincere appreciation for the different ways that you have invested your time and talents in of Faith in Action Alabama.

We are always striving to more effectively translate the prophetic visions that are taught and preached about in churches, mosques, and synagogues into faithful action that brings praise, honor, and glory to the God of Liberation.

With that in mind, we ask you to join us this year, make a commitment, up your commitment, make the vision of Alabama's future where all people have a pathway to success your vision. Let's go there together!

Dr. A.B. Sutton, Jr.
President of the Board of Directors

Daniel J. Schwartz
Executive Director

