



Washington Interfaith Network (WIN) – St. Mark's Annual Report

2022-2023 Core team: Kit Arrington, Edna Boone, Josie Jordan, Joel Martinez

During our second year as dues paying members of WIN (\$5,000), St. Mark's continued to enthusiastically embrace being part of a city-wide community of [50 primarily faith-based institutions](#) building relationships with individuals to work on issues of equity and justice that include Affordable Housing / Public Lands / Public Housing; Living Wage Jobs; the Environment; Black Equity Through Homeownership, and Public Safety. Primarily drawing from the WIN Realm-group mailing list (64), St. Mark's contributes dependable participants when it is important for folks to show up with WIN at public hearings, topical meetings and at WIN Actions - when numbers count to display power promoting important issues! Through participation in education and action opportunities, we learned about the public health crisis from the environmental threat of methane gas; best practices for Federal Funding (RAD) to renovate maintenance-neglected public housing; and how to support Black Equity Through Home ownership in DC. This work was shared in a May Mission Moment. Regular emails, occasional update meetings, and <http://www.stmarks.net/win/> keep the parish informed of actions and opportunities! What does WIN Action look like at St. Mark's?

Actions & Training - of the many [2022 WIN](#) actions and training opportunities, St. Mark's parishioners actively participated by attending and engaging in the following:

AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND PUBLIC HOUSING:

Ongoing: Through WIN's Public Housing Working Group, ongoing work alongside residents of the Potomac Gardens public housing Seniors building (joined by Seminarian Joel Martinez), creating and reporting results of a maintenance survey, increasing awareness and understanding of RAD renovation rights; and drafting an MOU for resident needs and concerns.

September: Ward 3 - Proposal to rebuild Chevy Chase library w/100 units of affordable housing.

October: [Mayor's Strike Force](#) (with WIN representation) announcing affordable housing initiatives reflecting WIN's Black Equity Through Homeownership recommendations.

March 10th: Black Equity through Home Ownership Lunch and Learn: WIN training on the WIN Black Equity Through Homeownership (BETH) action: *We believe that every native Washingtonian who wants to stay in DC should have every right and resource to stay.*

November-February: WIN Public Housing Group meetings with DCHA administrative team reviewing WIN's research and recommendations on the Federally Funded RAD redevelopments for DCHA properties.

November (9 participate w/122 total): DCHA scathing HUD report [Public Housing Press Conference](#) response w/City Council members outlining actions that need to be taken to rectify long-standing problems and support residents and their rights to decent living conditions and timely support. "WIN, including our resident leader members, see ourselves both as allies in creating accountability and an asset in advocating and laying the groundwork for the realization of these objectives." says WIN leader Kit Arrington."

February: [Host Film Screening](#) and panel discussion (110 attend hybrid event): *Barry Farm - Community, Land & Justice in Washington, D.C.* "It is a story of Barry Farm, but it is also a story of Washington, DC. And, in the cycles of place and displacement, it is a story of the United States of America."

POLITICAL POWER:

March 20th: Power Building City-Wide Candidate Forum: [Where do you stand on WIN issues?](#) (2,000 attendees including 47 from St. Mark's!) Council Chair Candidates: Phil Mendelson; Erin Palmer | Attorney General Candidates: Bruce Spiva; Brian Schwalb; Kenyan McDuffie | Mayoral Candidates: Muriel Bowser, Trayon White, Robert White.

May: DC Budget Letters: Letters of support sent for WIN priorities resulting in [Budget item impacts](#) that included "...Creation of a new \$10 million Black Homeownership Fund to keep longtime D.C. residents in their homes..." & "...\$329 million to repair or replace public housing units, largely for seniors; \$31 million for new permanent supportive housing vouchers; \$13.8 million for violence intervention contracts in 25 priority communities across the District."

June: [Power to the Polls Pop-up Ward 6](#) - Encouraged voter registration and promoted WIN issues when selecting a candidate! Joined the Poor People's Campaign March.

January-February: Meeting with Charles Allen (Ward 6) & Kenyan McDuffie (At-Large) to review WIN issues. Received interest from Charles Allen to attend an upcoming meeting of St. Mark's Incarceration Justice group.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE:

February 2022: Training on the social and environmental harms of "natural gas," plus learning how local leaders have been building power together to transition the District off of gas and cleaner energy sources, leading to some class participants testifying to the DC Council Business & Economic Development Committee during the oversight hearing on the [Public Service Commission](#).

October: WIN's Electric Slide Bus Tour: [Intro to Methane Gas issues](#); Affordable Housing (Res 13); Public Housing - [Charles Allen @ residents of Potomac Gardens](#).

December 2022-February 2023: Lead by Seminarian Joel Martinez, MS/HS Sunday School teach-in & two Climate in the Pulpit Baxter Hall/kitchen presentations on negative environmental impact of methane gas with [measuring indoor air pollution](#) from gas stoves plus 20 parishioner and families sign-ups for in-home Citizen Scientist testing to gather data points for a regional report.

TRAINING:

February: [Public Safety](#) Issue training

May & June Power Lunch Learning Series with ally organizing groups in Boston, Cleveland, Wisconsin and Maryland: Voter-Depression-to-Voter-Engagement; How to Motivate People; Trauma Informed Organizing

January & February: WIN Winter Training Series - Organizing: Introduction to Public Action; Building Relational Power through Public Narratives and Relational Meetings; Problem vs. Issue and Local Action Prep

Ongoing: St. Mark's WIN leader Edna Boone leads a WIN Ward 6 group to learn and support each other in our respective areas of concern and to build energy around common issues within Ward 6.