

## NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

The New York State Council of Churches, founded in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century, represents 7,500 congregations across the State of New York. We are comprised of nine partner denominations including American Baptist Churches USA, Empire Baptist Missionary Convention (National Baptist Convention), The Episcopal Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Presbyterian Church USA, The Reformed Church in America, The Religious Society of Friends, United Church of Christ, and The United Methodist Church.

### **The New York State Council of Churches:**

**Certifies and supports Protestant chaplains** in Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, Office of Mental Health, and Office of Children and Family Services as they seek to offer love and hope to so many who feel hopeless and have had little experience of being loved unconditionally. We urge fully ordained pastors, including those who may be serving as parish ministers, to consider applying for certification. The Department of Corrections and Community Supervision is in particular need of candidates to fill a number of openings. In October, we held our annual chaplain's conference virtually which can be viewed at [WWW.NYSCOC.ORG](http://WWW.NYSCOC.ORG)

### **Equips faith leaders to advocate for laws and policies, consistent with our denominational partner's social principles, which address structural racism, economic inequality, and environmental degradation**

Our Statewide Ecumenical and Interfaith Advocacy Day took place virtually on February 16, 2022. We were pleased to have Governor Kathy Hochul address us along with many other distinguished speakers including Dr. James Parrott from The New School who offered economic analysis of the state budget and The Reverend Dr. Roxanne Jones Booth, Co-Pastor, Riverview Missionary Baptist Church in Coeymans, New York who offered anti-racist and theological reflections as it relates to public policy. 8 seminars featuring many policy experts were also held. Our comprehensive 2022 legislative ask and video of all the presentations can be found at [WWW.NYSCOC.ORG](http://WWW.NYSCOC.ORG). In March, 2022, we will begin holding monthly seminars examining the practice of anti-racism.

**Promotes mission consistent development of church property.** The Council and three other partners--Interfaith Assembly on Homelessness and Housing, Interfaith Affordable Housing Collaborative and Bricks and Mortals--received a generous grant from Trinity Church Wall Street to help us consult with congregations in New York City about repurposing their property to build affordable housing. In addition, the Council offers grants and assessments to congregations outside of New York City seeking to develop their property for affordable housing. Our predevelopment process is carefully detailed at [WWW.IAHCNY.org](http://WWW.IAHCNY.org). Of late, we offer consultation with our partner, Crauderueff Associates, to congregations across the state about their energy needs including access to solar. Bricks and Mortals, also offers consultation for New York City congregations including use of their space for non-affordable housing purposes. We continue to produce Who is My Neighbor Seminars which offer expert guidance. Seminars can be found at [WWW.NYSCOC.ORG](http://WWW.NYSCOC.ORG).

The Council strongly encourages congregations to advocate for the homeless and precariously housed in their community including the construction and preservation of affordable housing. We recently received a grant from Enterprise Community Partners to offer a Landlord Locator Service in conjunction with Interfaith Assembly on Homelessness and Housing to work with congregations in New York City to find landlords who will accept housing vouchers—one of the most effective, direct and immediate solutions to the affordable housing crisis.

**We are committed to the ecumenical and interfaith work and see building relationships across secular and religious lines as central to our mission.** In the past year, we continue to advocate for religious freedom and human rights in India, Israel/Palestine and Afghanistan. Of late, we have also reached out to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in response to the attack on Ukraine. Our ecumenical work is complemented by our participation in the National Council of Churches, the International Religious Freedom Roundtable, the India Working Group, and the Federation of Indian American Christian Organizations of North America.

**We thank our denominational partners for their support.** You can view our virtual fundraising event which tells the full story of the Council on our website. [WWW.NYSCOC.ORG](http://WWW.NYSCOC.ORG). **We are next to the Capital in Albany at 85 Chestnut Street, 12210.** Office email is [nyscocalbany@gmail.com](mailto:nyscocalbany@gmail.com) phone is 518-436-9319. The Reverend Peter Cook is Executive Director and can be reached at [pcook@nyscoc.org](mailto:pcook@nyscoc.org) or 508 380-8289.