



MINNESOTA
MULTIFAITH
NETWORK



ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Minnesota Multifaith Network (MnMN)

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A YEAR OF BUILDING

Minnesota Multifaith Network (MnMN)



After officially launching in late 2019, calendar year 2020 was about building the basics at Minnesota Multifaith Network (MnMN).

An interim board steadily recruited a full board of directors made up of respected leaders from a variety of faith traditions. A network council was formed to provide guidance on issues important to the community and relevant to our mission. Productive convening and communicating initiatives were developed. Incorporation and nonprofit IRS status were achieved.

Our efforts grew despite a backdrop of a global health pandemic, as well as the tragic death of George Floyd on the streets of Minneapolis. In fact, the importance of building relationships was never more clear.

THE MINNESOTA MULTIFAITH NETWORK IS THE STATEWIDE NETWORK SUPPORTING FAITH AND INTERFAITH LEADERS AND ORGANIZATIONS WORKING FOR A MORE JUST AND LOVING WORLD.

Mission Statement



2020 Interim Board and Network Council

- **Vishal Agarwal**, Hindu Society of Minnesota
- **Lee Burdge**, Church of Jesus Christ Latter-day Saints
- **Zan Christ**, Religious Equity Consultant/Speaker
- **Rev. Richard H. Coleman**, Wayman African Methodist Episcopal Church
- **Rev. Ben Connelly**, Minnesota Zen Meditation Center, Interim Board Chair
- **David Cournoyer**, Lakota, Consultant
- **Charles Curry**, Community of Christ, Interim Board Treasurer
- **Rev. Dr. Curtiss Paul DeYoung**, Minnesota Council of Churches
- **Rev. Dr. Thomas Duke**, Lutheran/ELCA clergy (ret.), Interim Board Vice-Chair
- **Rev. Rob Eller-Isaacs**, Unity Church Unitarian
- **John Emery**, Islamic Resource Group
- **Ram Gada**, Jain Center of Minnesota
- **Hans Gustafson, Ph.D.**, Jay Phillips Center for Interreligious Studies at University of St. Thomas
- **Naaima Kahn**, Islamic Resource Group
- **Bill Konrardy**, United Methodist Church
- **Jessi LeClear-Vachta**, Luther Seminary
- **Judith Lies**, Blooming Heart Sangha
- **Julia Nerbonne**, Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light
- **Mary Pickard**, Unity Church Unitarian, Interim Board Member
- **Vic Rosenthal**, Consultant
- **Randi Roth**, Interfaith Action of Greater Saint Paul
- **Fr. Erich Rutten**, Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, St. Peter Claver Catholic Church;
- **Zafar Siddiqui**, Islamic Resource Group
- **Rabbi Adam Stock Spilker**, Mount Zion Temple, Network Council Chair and Interim Board Sec.
- **Prabhat Tekriwal**, Minnesota Hindu Milan Mandir, Interim Board Member

2020 Volunteer Operations Team

Rev. Dr. Thomas Duke, Lutheran/ELCA clergy (ret.); **Charles Curry**, Community of Christ, Interim Board Treasurer; **Mary Pickard**, Unity Church Unitarian, Interim Board Member



ACHIEVEMENTS

Minnesota Multifaith Speakers Network

A cooperative project of faith communities began.

Organization Directory

A directory and digital map of organizations doing interfaith work across the state grew.

Greater Minnesota Interfaith Leaders

A monthly virtual convening of interfaith leaders from various Minnesota communities flourished.

Convenings Inspired by Members

Virtual MnMN-hosted meetings were held to update members on the Minnesota Poor People's Campaign, antiracism work among faith leaders, and multifaith views on non-violence.

Board Development

Our interim board recruited a fourteen member board of directors from a variety of faith traditions to begin work in January 2021.

Website and Communications

A newly updated website, regular email newsletters, and social media were implemented.

Membership

An online membership structure was created to facilitate network development statewide.

Fundraising

Successful fundraising initiatives were launched, including Give to the Max Day and our own [Founders Circle](#).



A FULL 95-97% OF PARTICIPANTS AT A MNMN SPEAKERS NETWORK PRESENTATION IN DECEMBER 2020 AGREED OR STRONGLY AGREED THAT THE CURRICULUM WAS WELL PLANNED AND ORGANIZED, THE COURSE MET THEIR EXPECTATIONS AND ENRICHED THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF THE TOPIC, AND THEY WOULD RECOMMEND IT TO OTHERS.



Special Thanks to All Contributors

We are grateful for all **155 donors** who provided **\$27,638** of financial support in 2020. Donations connected faith and interfaith leaders and organizations working for a more just and loving world.

Founders Circle: An Investment in MnMN's Future

Sustained donations are especially vital for establishing MnMN. Many are already part of our Founders Circle by pledging contributions at any level for three years. As of Spring 2021, a full **47 founders** have pledged a total of **\$84,780** through 2023 - and we have received **\$23,623** of that amount. In addition to an anonymous member list, our Founders Circle includes:

Gail Anderson	Ann Lewis in memory of Dagmar Michler
Andrea Bond & Charles Skrief	Judith Lies
Lee & Joni Burdge	Emily Maltz
Zan Christ	John & Patty Matthews
Rev. Ben Connelly	Tamara Nadel
Charles & Penelope Curry	Godan Nambudiripad
Dr. Dash Foundation	Paula B. Nordhem
Curtiss DeYoung	Manley Olson
Lois Duffy	Ruth Ann Olson
Tom Duke & Jean Hammink	Johanna Osman
Holly & John Brod Farber	Eric & JoAnn Pasternack
Carla Feldhamer	Jan & Janet Phillips
Diane E. Follmer	Mary E. Pickard
Dr. Jack Fortin	Anant & Geeta Rambachan
Connie Furre	Maerin Renee
Sandra & Timothy Iverson in memory of	Randi Ilyse Roth
Stuart Goldberg and Archie & Helen Gingold	Rev. Erich Rutten
Jerry "JJ" Johnson & Bonita Johnson	Pastor Bradley E. Schmeling
Tim & Michele Johnson	Cantor Rachel & Rabbi Adam Stock Spilker
Juli & Bill Konrardy	Bradford & Colleen Stone
Pam Winthrop Lauer	Nancy & Bob Vactorin-Vangerud
In honor of La Famille Yaro	Mary Ann and David Wark

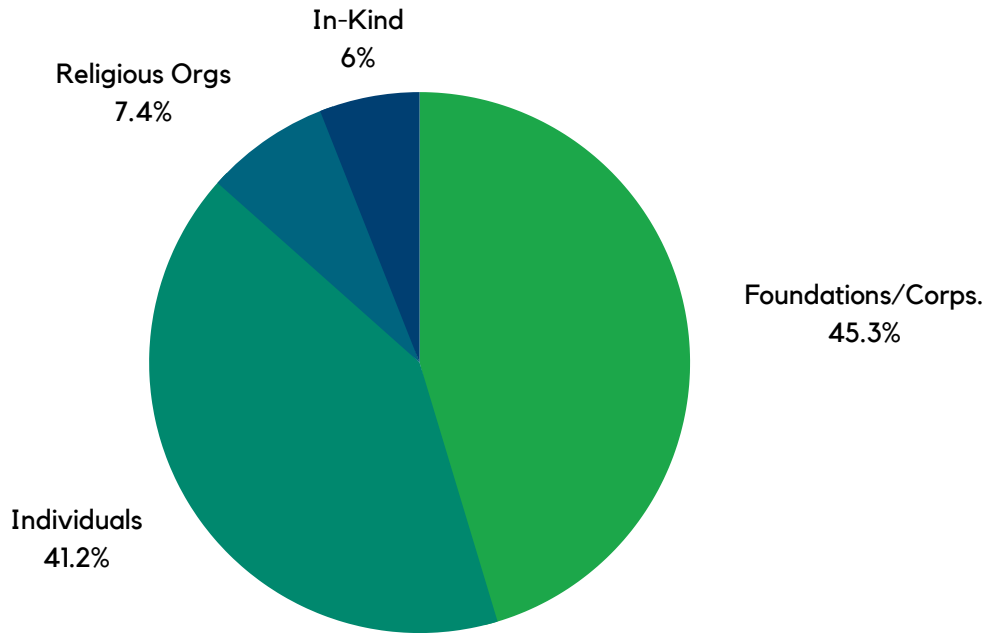
*No one is intentionally missing from the list above and no name is knowingly misspelled.
Please contact MnMN if a correction is needed.*

Anyone can be part of the Founders Circle. Become a founder by making a pledge on or before December 31, 2021 at any level for three years. [CLICK HERE: FOUNDERS CIRCLE](#)



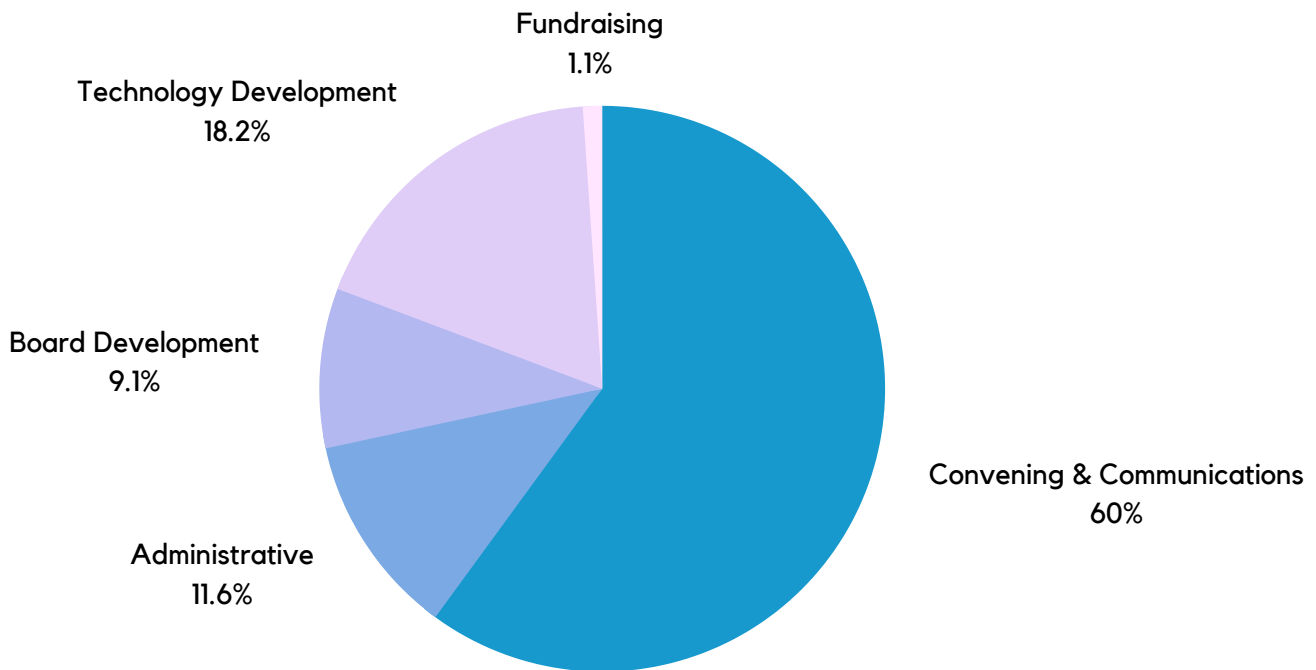
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

2020 TOTAL REVENUE: \$67,233*



**Note: \$39,936 raised in 2020 for 2021 expenses*

2020 TOTAL EXPENSES: \$36,110



LOOKING AHEAD

2021 Goals & Financial Support

MnMN is ramping up our ability to convene, support collective action, and equip leaders. Activities in 2021 will include a general convening, network mapping, training, supporting an expanded Greater Minnesota Interfaith Leaders Group, and promoting the Multifaith Speakers Network to reach schools and other groups. We will also develop communications and data management strategies, enhance and expand our [membership initiative](#), and provide a more robust online presence across programming. Financial support of MnMN is an opportunity to strengthen networks of people and organizations committed to building trust and forging alliances across faith traditions.

2021 Board of Directors

Sally Abrams, Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas; **Pooja Bastodkar**, Hindu Society of Minnesota; **Lee Burdge**, Church of Jesus Christ Latter-day Saints; **Madena Burman**, Luther Seminary; **Genjo Conway**, Clouds in Water Zen Center; **Charles Curry**, Community of Christ; **John Emery**, Islamic Resource Group; **Ram Gada**, Jain Center of Minnesota; **Patrice Koelsch**, Common Ground Meditation Center; **Johanna Osman**, Sakan Community Resource and Dar al Farooq, Bloomington; **Joy Persall**, Ojibwe Metis; **Anantanand Rambachan**, St. Olaf College / Hindu Society of Minnesota; **Fr. Erich Rutten**, Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis / St. Peter Claver Catholic Church; **Rev. Bradley Schmeling**, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church; **Rabbi Adam Stock Spilker**, Mount Zion Temple

2021 Network Council

Vishal Agarwal, Hindu Society of Minnesota; **Lee Burdge**, Church of Jesus Christ Latter-day Saints; **Becca Busse**, Blogger; **Zan Christ**, Religious Equity Consultant/Speaker; **Rev. Richard H. Coleman**, Wayman African Methodist Episcopal Church; **Rev. Ben Connelly**, Minnesota Zen Meditation Center; **Joann Conway**, Oglala Sioux and Good Samaritan Society; **Charles Curry**, MnMN Financial Officer; **Rev. Dr. Curtiss Paul DeYoung**, Minnesota Council of Churches; **Rev. Dr. Thomas Duke**, MnMN Operations Team; **John Emery**, Islamic Resource Group; **Ram Gada**, Jain Center of Minnesota; **Hans Gustafson, Ph.D.**, Jay Phillips Center for Interreligious Studies at University of St. Thomas; **Naaima Khan**, Islamic Resource Group; **Bill Konrardy**, United Methodist Church; **Jessi LeClear-Vachta**, Luther Seminary; **Shehla Mushtaq**, Interfaith Circle; **Carl Nelson**, Transform Minnesota; **Julia Nerbonne**, Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light; **Joy Persall**, Ojibwe Metis; **Sarah Peterka**, Interfaith Action of Greater Saint Paul; **Mary Pickard**, MnMN Operations Team; **Anantanand Rambachan**, St. Olaf College/Hindu Society of Minnesota; **Vic Rosenthal**, Consultant; **Fr. Erich Rutten**, Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, St. Peter Claver Catholic Church; **Zafar Siddiqui**, Islamic Resource Group; **Rabbi Adam Stock Spilker**, Mount Zion Temple; **Prabhat Tekriwal**, Minnesota Hindu Milan Mandir; **Brian Zakem**, Temple Israel of Minneapolis, Align Minneapolis, and Alliance for Sustainability

