

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022

# POWER



**FREEDOM  
EXPRESS BUS  
TOUR  
LAUNCH**



# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR STATEMENT

POWER family, I am so proud of us. 2022 presented many challenges, and we moved together powerfully to meet them.

In January, White Christian Nationalism was already rearing its head in Pennsylvania's midterm elections, while our communities were grappling with "post-COVID" energy shutoffs and eviction threats in the middle of winter. The Pennsylvania public school trial *William Penn School District et al. v. Pennsylvania Department of Education et al.* dragged on, while our Commonwealth's school children continued to be deprived of equitable access to quality education. Gun violence and the climate crisis continued to weigh on our minds.

Having not only survived 2021, but grown and thrived as an organization and a movement, we were ready to meet these challenges in 2022.

**We welcomed Sara Melton as the Statewide Director of Organizing as the year began, and that has been proven a very positive move, indeed.**

Sara has worked personally with each of our organizers and dozens of our leaders to first understand, and then lead and shape POWER's organizing this past year. She coordinated the efforts of staff and dozens of volunteers to produce the phenomenal Freedom Express bus tour in October, from a kernel of an idea coming out of a meeting of clergy leaders in July. We are delighted to have added her leadership and organizing skill and experience to our team.

In the pages that follow, we'll share the year's triumphs and setbacks, a look at our financial health, and a bit about our vision for the future.

Thank you for being part of the POWER family, helping us change the damned world.

**BISHOP DWAYNE ROYSTER**

# CAMPAIGN: LIVE FREE

Although gun violence in Philadelphia neighborhoods and in cities across the state stabilized in 2022, POWER's Live Free team continued our work to convene a coalition of organizations from various neighborhoods to identify and implement practices best suited to each neighborhood to decrease and prevent gun violence, with the goal of developing a process that can be replicated statewide. Likewise, our "barbershop conversations" listening campaign, led by Live Free Co-Chair Elder Melanie DuBouse, continues to gather stories and input from Philadelphia communities.

To help educate and organize members of our communities around dismantling our cash bail and mass incarceration systems, our team created a resource guide, and is busy planning events and actions for the coming year. In partnership with Juntos and New Sanctuary Movement of Philadelphia, we continued to fight to close down detention centers, keep ICE out of our public schools, and gain access for

immigrants to drivers' licenses. We began working, too, with members of Philadelphia City Council and PA legislators to discuss the possible reform of PA Act 111 of 1968, to bring more transparency and accountability to the arbitration process between municipalities and police and firefighter unions.

# CAMPAIGN: ECONOMIC JUSTICE

After a busy 2021 and the departure of our Economic Dignity team's lead organizer Jordan Ford in June, our leaders worked to get to know Statewide Director of Organizing Sara Melton, and prepare for 2023. The focus of these internal conversations was how best to work with our partners, especially PowerSwitch Action and Pittsburgh United, to ensure our communities can set their own wage and housing policy.

# CAMPAIGN: EDUCATION

After years of advocacy, our education team celebrated the beginning of the long-awaited trial of the William Penn School District et al. v. Pennsylvania Department of Education et al. lawsuit in late 2021. The trial concluded with closing arguments on March 10 of 2022, but we'd wait the rest of the year and into 2023 (February 7, specifically) for a ruling.

We didn't wait idly, though.

In May, we worked with Our City, Our Schools and others to help our communities' voices be heard during the School District of Philadelphia's planning process, and demand the investment our children deserve. One June 7, we rallied at locations across Southeastern and Central Pennsylvania in support of the Governor's budget proposal, and called out state legislators who were working against its significant investment in Pennsylvania public schools.

Then in July, we got to celebrate.

The education budget passed with a \$337 million increase in basic education funding and another \$225 million, more than double the 2021 amount, for the state's "Level Up" program for the 100 most underfunded school districts, all of which was a direct result of organizing by POWER and our partners. Counties where POWER Interfaith organizes received SIXTY-ONE PERCENT of that money

equaling \$137,199,903.

Since then, we have been preparing for what is likely to be a more challenging fight for what our kids deserve in 2023. Our March 8, 2023 statement on Governor Shapiro's budget proposal, pointed out:

"In this moment, with the unprecedented multi-billion dollar surplus available to address deeply unjust education, funding disparities remain. Governor Shapiro's \$567M proposed increase for Basic Education Funding is a modest 7.8% increase that barely keeps pace with inflation. The governor knows full well that Pennsylvania has allowed school districts in the least wealthy areas of the state to languish."

It demanded the general assembly swiftly rectify the effects of decades of an unconstitutional education system, increase Level Up funding by \$400 Million, adopt \$750 Million in new Basic Education Funding, and utilize the nearly \$12 Billion budget surpluses, including the rainy day fund, to repair toxic schools.

POWER continues to make significant strides toward building our statewide multi-racial (and antiracist), multi-faith base and strong coalition of grassroots organizations, teachers unions, school boards, school administrators, and legislators working together for racial equity in public education in Pennsylvania.

# CAMPAIGN: CLIMATE JUSTICE

Early in 2022, POWER's Climate Justice & Jobs team was out in the cold, so Philadelphia Gas Works (PGW) customers wouldn't have to be. Our February 3 "PGW Turn the Heat Back On!" vigil called attention to an unknown number of PGW customers whose gas had been shut off before winter started due to poverty. PGW was unable to produce a policy for speedily reconnecting people who had already qualified for assistance, and unable to transparently report on numbers of shut offs and reconnections.

In the spring, we participated with Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT), PowerSwitch Action, and others in public actions calling attention to Vanguard Group, Inc.'s huge irresponsible investments in Amazon, Inc, Exelon, and other corporations with practices and policies that are extremely harmful to our climate and our communities. The actions took place at Vanguard headquarters in Valley Forge, PA and at the Eddystone Generating Station, one of several fossil-fuel powered generating stations along the Delaware River.

In May we hosted our long-awaited People's Energy Summit, gathering people from 25 POWER congregations across southeastern PA to deepen a shared

analysis about how energy systems perpetuate climate, racial, and economic injustices and to build power to fight for a world that puts people and planet over profit.

POWER leaders dove deep into researching energy issues as they relate to the Public Utility commission (PUC). We studied their roles and responsibilities, the power they have, their relationships to the legislature and the fossil fuel industry and their relationship with utilities as a whole.



We learned to tell our stories and about points for public leverage, and identified ways in which we could make a difference. Coming out of the Summit, leaders continued work on a People's Energy Plan timeline and communication strategy, which will be ready to launch in late June, 2023.

# CAMPAIGN: CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

In direct response to prevailing apathy among Black voters in Pennsylvania (confirmed by a survey POWER commissioned by HIT Strategies), POWER, in partnership with our 501(c)4 entity POWER Action Fund, focused our 2022 engagement efforts on predominantly Black communities. We hosted a series of virtual town halls entitled,

“Y Bother,” to educate people on the difference a vote can make, and created four voter engagement videos featuring Black faith leaders from varied traditions. Members hosted phone banks 4-5 times weekly, and conducted weekly deep



canvassing of low-propensity voters in the four weeks prior to Election Day. 700 people came out in Philadelphia for POWER's November 5 Black Bikers Vote rally. PA voters turnout numbers approached those of 2020's presidential race, exceeding 2018 turnout by about 4 points. While the historically low-turnout wards we target didn't exceed 2018 turnout, they did hold steady after nearly doubling turnout from 2014 to 2018.

POWER's Climate Justice and Jobs team was able to invest in an experimental “Faith Votes for Climate” billboard campaign along major commuter routes in Bucks and Montgomery counties. The campaign included geofencing, which helped achieve POWER's highest website hits ever.

I'M VOTING FOR OUR **CLIMATE**  
FOR THE HEALTH OF MY **COMMUNITY**

FaithVotesForClimate.org

PAID FOR BY POWER INTERFAITH

# CAMPAIGN: CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

The centerpiece, though, of POWER's 2022 voter engagement was the Freedom Express Bus Tour. Over the course of three weeks, 34 lay and clergy leaders visited 22 communities, 7 of which were brand new to POWER, in 17 Pennsylvania counties. We hosted or co-hosted with one of 36 partner organizations 41 actions, events, and trainings. We connected with more than 100 faith communities and talked about the heresy of White Christian Nationalism and how to resist it. We listened to the stories and concerns of community members and leaders, shared our vision for a Pennsylvania where all can thrive, and emphasized the importance, not only of voting, but of organizing friends, families, and communities to vote.

The need for the Freedom Express became clear before it even existed: With a contract in place with a tour bus company, we set our communications team to work designing our message and brand. When the taglines "Healing our Faith in Democracy" and "This Bus Fights Fascism" emerged, they were deemed too political by the vendor, and our team found themselves scrambling, two weeks before the tour launch, for a new bus. Find one they did, and the Freedom Express rolled out of Philadelphia on schedule on October 18. At one stop in York, Pennsylvania--a place where POWER Action Fund & POWER have only begun to organize, and where progressive politics are not the norm, a small but mighty group gathered at Heidelberg United Church of Christ. They heard about the danger of White Christian Nationalism and learned how to counter its narrative with our own inclusive faith voice. The gratitude of the people there for our willingness to be present in this "red" area was palpable, and we're confident we've found some new grassroots leaders there.



# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

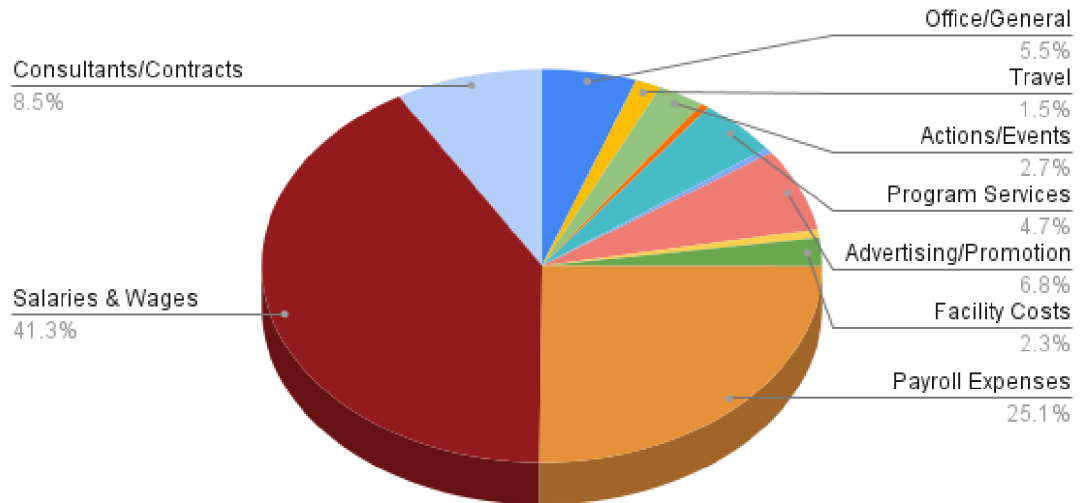
4

NEW member faith communities

## EXPENSES

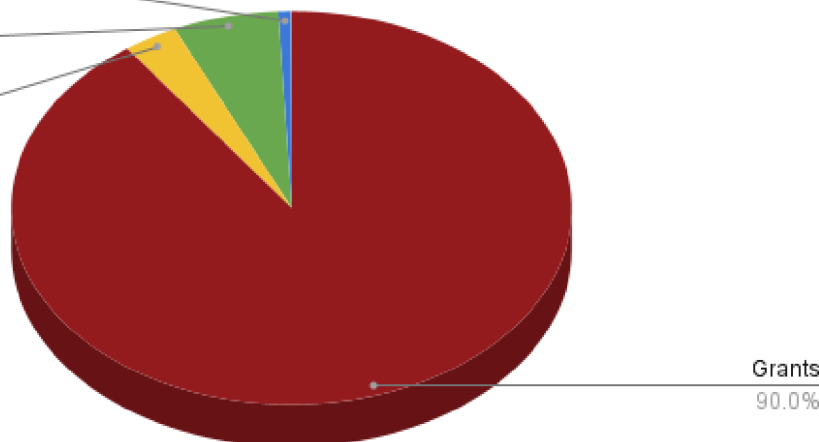
↑ 24.8%

## 2022 EXPENSES



## 2022 REVENUE

Individual Membership  
0.7%  
Individual Donations  
6.1%  
Congregation Dues  
3.1%



## REVENUE

↑ 32.8%



# 2022 PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT

<b>INCOME</b>	
<b>3000 REVENUE</b>	
3100 Grants	\$2,646,861.81
3400 Congregation Membership Dues	\$92,066.82
Individual Donations	\$178,888.06
3430 Individual Membership Dues	\$20,807.03
3440 Sponsorship	\$500.00
3500 Fee Service	\$200.00
3610 Interest Income	\$865.56
<b>Total 3000 REVENUE</b>	<b>\$2,940,189.28</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
4000 Office/General Administrative Expenses	\$180,458.95
5000 Program Services	
5100 Staff Travel	\$48,530.46
5200 Actions/Events	\$90,124.46
5600 Staff & Leadership Training	\$16,372.55
Total 5000 Program Services	\$155,027.47
5210 Professional Development	\$14,250.29
5400 Advertising and Promotion	\$224,689.45
5500 Fundraising	\$23,102.42
5700 Facility Costs	\$75,559.49
6000 Payroll	\$831,266.12
6600 Salaries & Wages	\$1,366,938.24
6800 Professional Fees & Consultants	\$282,199.53
<b>Total EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$3,153,491.96</b>
Net Operating Income	-\$213,302.68
Draw from reserve	\$213,302.68

# THANK YOU

What a year for POWER!

Thanks to strong relationships with more than 150 faith communities, 82 individual members, 400 donors (including 51 monthly sustainers), and 27 organizational funders, we raised nearly \$3 million to build collective power in communities across Pennsylvania.

We are deeply grateful for their confidence in our organizing staff's ability to inform, train, and support our community leaders as they identify what they need and work together to hold businesses and elected officials accountable to their promises and to the common good.

Since 2020, philanthropic interest in Black-led grassroots organizing has grown, and helped POWER grow. Coupled with funding from loyal donors and government pandemic support, it gave us the small reserve fund that allowed us to counter the heresy of White Christian Nationalism with the Freedom Express in 2022, despite incomplete funding. Now, we need to build new relationships with funders and individual donors who share our vision, so we can continue to build our statewide movement. Over the next few years, we'll expand our organizing support to many communities beyond the 10 Eastern and Central Pennsylvania counties we currently serve. Financial support from diverse sources will be crucial to replenish our reserve and ensure the sustainability of the work to build a Pennsylvania, a nation, and a world where all of us can *thrive*.