

2020 FAITH
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ANNUAL REPORT

2020

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WE ARE THE INCLUSIVE COLLECTIVE

We are a **community**.

We are Artists. Intellectuals. Realists. Weirdos. Doubters. Believers. Students. **People**.

We are a safe place to be our **whole selves**.

Unashamed of who we are. What we look like.

Or who **we love**.

We are shamelessly **Christian**.

And we're reclaiming the genuine love it should mean.

We are Leaders and **Activists**.

We are Servants to those in need.

We are Fighters for true **justice**.

And we exist to

Fuel young adults through Jesus rooted soul work.

The Inclusive Collective (IC) is a vibrant, growing, & diverse campus ministry in Chicagoland. We exist to fuel young adults through Jesus-rooted soul work. In other words, we strive to create experiences where our members encounter God in such powerful ways that they feel inspired and energized for courageous, faithful living. Experiences that stir them up to follow Jesus, disrupt the status quo, and co-create God's Beloved Community.

WE STRIVE TO BE . . .

JESUS ROOTED

Jesus' life, love, and transformative grace fuel who we are and all we do. We aren't talking about a gentle, white Jesus with long flowing blonde hair. We're talking about the Jesus who speaks truth to power, includes all people, and offers ridiculous amounts of grace. We want everyone to experience a life-changing relationship with this Jesus, who is better and bigger than we can imagine.

INCLUSIVE

Christianity often excludes and operates with racism, but there is another way. God dreams of a world where the walls that divide us and the systems that oppress us come crashing down. So, we're committed to the transformative-yet-messy work that nurtures a community where all people feel truly welcome and valued. And when we say all, we mean ALL. LGBTQ+ and Straight; Black, Brown, and White; Believers and Doubters; Freshmen and Grad Students and Young Adults — you're all heard, seen, and loved here.

COMMUNAL

Even in a large city and with constant connection on social media, we can still experience loneliness. But life isn't meant to be a solo thing, so let's build strong community. A community that serves, plays, laughs, seeks justice, studies, debates, and experiences grace together. A community that feels more like family than just another social network.

AUTHENTIC

God has more to offer to us than carbon copy living. God desires for us to live as our unique True Selves, growing in confidence in one's God-given identities, gifts, and strengths -- and becoming aware of our limits, too. It is in this self-discovery that we discern who we were created to be, so we don't have to worry about pretending or hiding. In this community, we bring our full selves – a raw and complex mix of beauty and brokenness. We reject shame and embrace openness around here.

ACTIVE

Jesus was never satisfied with the status quo, especially when it harmed vulnerable populations. He challenged earthly power structures when they stood in the way of God's vision for a just society. With Jesus as our model, we long to be a community committed to the work of justice and service, particularly in our own backyard. God is moving in powerful ways among and through our neighbors and in our world, so we will join in on what God is already up to.

Dear IC Partners,

In 2020, a pandemic hit that we are still stuck in. White supremacy reared its ugly and sinful head yet again and again and again. We had one of the most contentious and historic election seasons in our country's history. 2020 revealed what many already knew to be true - our country has a long way to go.

2020 also taught us that a flimsy faith will just not do. The kind of faith that cowers at or offers trite phrases at the first sign of distress is useless. The kind of faith that has nothing meaningful to offer during trials is, frankly, not worth our time.

To navigate seismic seasons like 2020, we need a faith that is innovative, strong, and offers alternative possibilities to the status quo. A faith that pushes for justice. A faith that invites sabbath and rest in a culture of overwork. A faith that connects us to the power of God that is deeper than anything dominant systems can dish out.

I will be the first to say that the Inclusive Collective is not perfect and we often fail to practice this kind of faith. But a "2020 Faith" is the kind of faith we are trying to embody, and I am amazed by the ways that our members follow Jesus and lead us into a world of equity, justice, and flourishing.

You'll see more about what God was up to in our community during 2020 in the pages that follow, but I first want to say: thank you. Thank you for your support, prayers, donations, advocacy, time, and energy. Thank you for partnering with us to create the Inclusive Collective - a community where we strive to practice a "2020 Faith." We are grateful to each of you.

Peace,
Rich



We are proud of our connection to the IC's two primary denominational partners, the Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church and the Presbytery of Chicago - PC(USA).

Dear Friends of the IC,

2020 was not the year we, nor anyone else in the world, were anticipating. I think our year-end annual campaign theme summed up the challenges quite well: “2020 Faith: Navigating White Supremacy, a Pandemic, and an Election.”

At our April board meeting (virtual, of course), Rich Havard reminded us what we did know in the midst of all the uncertainty – that the IC’s mission of existing to fuel young adults through Jesus-rooted soul work was needed now more than ever. While the practice of how we did this may have changed as we pivoted to a virtual environment, our mission remained the same. God is bigger than any of the challenges we face.

And indeed, God is good. Even though the majority of the IC programming and activity was virtual, we experienced amazing growth not only at the UIC campus and the NIU extension but we also had students from 10 different schools join the IC in 2020. We continued to host Sunday night meals for people experiencing homelessness in a Covid-safe way, over 100 students participated in spiritual formation programs, and we hosted a socially distanced Fall Retreat. Finally, we had a record-breaking year-end fundraising campaign, meaning that the IC is poised to be even more faithful to its call in 2021 and beyond.

None of this would have been possible without the faithful, inspired and seemingly tireless leadership of our Executive Director & Pastor, Rich Havard, the excellent leadership of our staff, and our outstanding student leadership team. It is a privilege to serve on the IC board alongside colleagues who continually impress me with their commitment to furthering the mission of the IC. And, of course, I want to give a huge thank you to all our donors and supporters. Your contributions and prayers are what allow the IC to create a space where we are all welcome to be our whole selves, shamelessly Christian, and committed to fueling young adults through Jesus-rooted soul work.

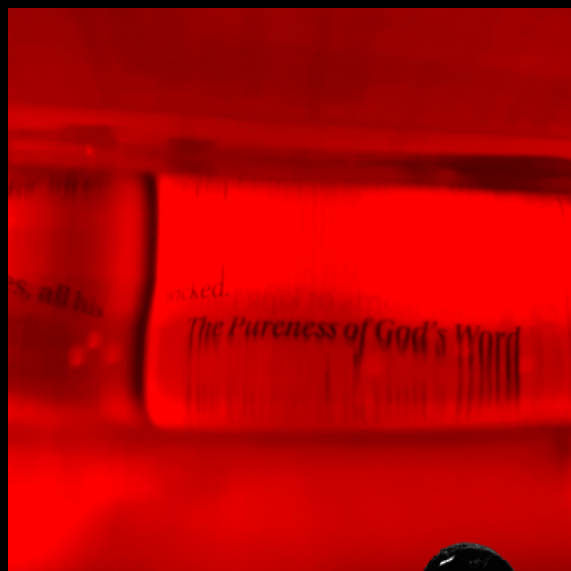
I am looking forward to 2021!

Gratefully,
Anne Coon, Board President



WHAT DOES A 2020 FAITH LOOK LIKE?

In the midst of this seismic season, a flimsy faith will just not do. We need a faith that is innovative, strong, and offers alternative possibilities to the status quo. So we asked our members, "What does a 2020 Faith look like to you?" Throughout this report, you'll see how some of them responded.



Matt Adams (He/Him)
@mbadms
mattadms.com



"God's word through a 2020 lens"
captured on iPhone through hand sanitizer

--

The IC gave me the tools I needed to love myself fully because of the love and support within the community. This community has been foundational in my belief in God and God's love for me.

--

My experience in the IC has been in constant change. Currently, what keeps me engaged in community is the ways being in it has flourished in my life and has let me flourish in the lives of others.

The IC community is a struggle ever crawling into the joys of unity.

tanka no. 2

*In the bright blue sky
I see the coming glory
A rainbow, a hope
How can we shine in the dark?
How will we ever get home?*



Tanamá Rivera Vargas (They/Them)
@avidalliterator
tanamariveravargas.wordpress.com



GROWTH

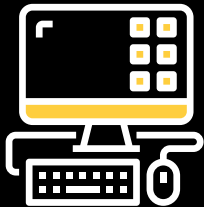
Created a spiritual home for more young adults who are working to create a better world.



Our hub is at the University of Illinois at Chicago, but we have students from **10 different schools** this semester!



We also continued to support the new and growing Inclusive Collective at **Northern Illinois University**.



Even in a pandemic, we adopted **new strategies to reach new people** who are hungry for the fresh campus ministry experience that we offer, especially **as one of the only LGBTQ-inclusive campus ministries in the city**.

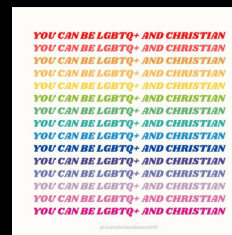
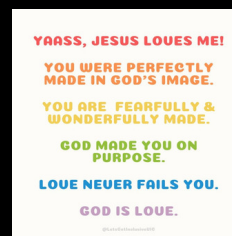
SOCIAL MEDIA

Shared the inclusive gospel through digital evangelism.



1,208 INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS
(29% ↑ SINCE 2019)

1,237 FACEBOOK LIKES
(6% ↑ SINCE 2019)



Our top post of 2020 was our National Coming Out Day post. It garnered **413 likes, 227 shares, 81 saves**, and was **seen by 2,881 unique accounts!** It's evident that folks desire a Christian community that is bold, progressive, and clear about its affirmation of LGBTQ+ identities in the Church. This post alone led to **35 new followers**.



WHAT DOES A 2020 FAITH LOOK LIKE?

lately i've been thinking a lot about endings

on the small screen when the fox chased after the priest
or
in print as two ghosts wander the moors

i thought the world ended
in march
then june
then november
then tuesday

yet life isn't a movie
with credits pouring down like rain
and time
both healer and butcher
ticks past hospital beds
and bloodied streets
plastic prayers
vampire hornets and
ballot machines
until battered and bruised
we wake in december
and start it again

i've tried to end this story
close my eyes &
click my heels three times
but i always end up where i began
back in the garden
for one moment of peace
where the sky is a song
and i am not naked

this vision always fades
just like smoke on the sea
but for a moment it's enough
to breathe in a dream



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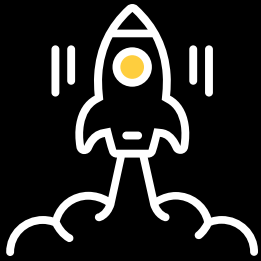
The IC has been a bit of flotation device for me this semester. As things with my church at Loyola broke down and eventually ended, the IC has been a bit of an escape into a community that I know won't shut me out because of who I love. I'm excited to continue to learn and grow with the IC next semester!

Levi Welch (He/Him)
@leviswift13



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Invested in young leaders.



We had **10 amazing people** in our newly-launched IC Fellows Program. They are growing more and more into Gospel-shaped leaders who will continue to change the church and the world.

We also had **two student pastors** from Garrett Seminary and McCormick Seminary. We believe in helping to shape young clergy as they lead the church into the future.



SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Nurtured young adults as they discern what it means to follow Jesus.



Reached over **100 people** through 14 small groups, worship gatherings, and fall retreat

45.5% of our members started or restarted a relationship with Jesus through the IC



Trained **27 people** in LGBTQ+ inclusive theology

COVID RELIEF

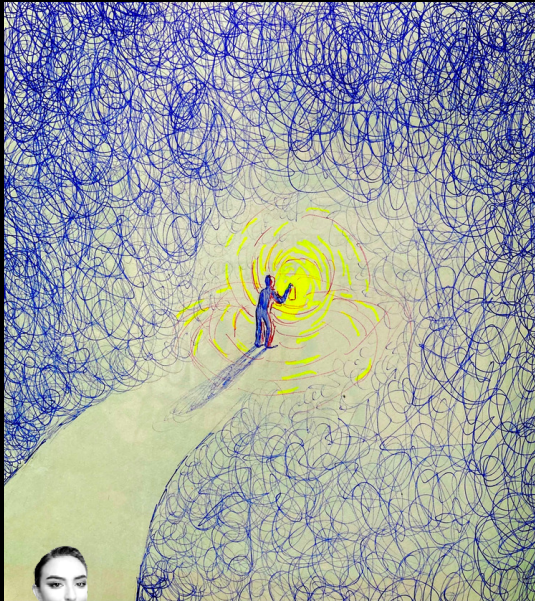
Supported students in practical ways.



Awarded \$1,000 in grants to our students who struggled to afford rent, groceries, insurance, etc. due to job loss, family financial difficulties, and medical issues.



WHAT DOES A 2020 FAITH LOOK LIKE?



Eva Durance (She/Her)
@excitingeva

"This dark haze feels suffocating, but God guides our steps and helps us breathe. We look back and see that our path makes sense."

--

It's been helpful to be amongst a group of people who apply the word of God in a practical, modern way that addresses everyday concerns. I am especially engaged by some of the artistic/poem activities as well as thought-provoking questions.

"2020 Faith is keeping a mask by your bed, to protect those around you from potentially falling ill. Doing as Jesus would. "

--

Going into my 3rd year in the IC, it has been a space for me to learn, grow, teach, lead, and love fully and fearlessly. The small group lessons and SLCT have kept me engaged as well as all the amazing folks I get to interact with. This community is family. We choose to spend our time together to explore a deeper more meaningful faith.



Moriah Safford (She/Her)
@midwest_shootingstar





SERVICE + JUSTICE

Served others and sought systemic justice.



We hosted nearly **2,000 people** experiencing homelessness to share a meal and create community in a COVID-safe way. We had fabulous food, a clothing shop, and a pop-up clinic provided through Chicago Street Medicine.



63.6% of our members said that participating in the IC increased their knowledge of justice issues in the world to a great deal



We took **35 students** to Minneapolis to learn about faith-rooted environmental justice.

SHAPE THE CHURCH

Played a role in the renewal of Christian communities.



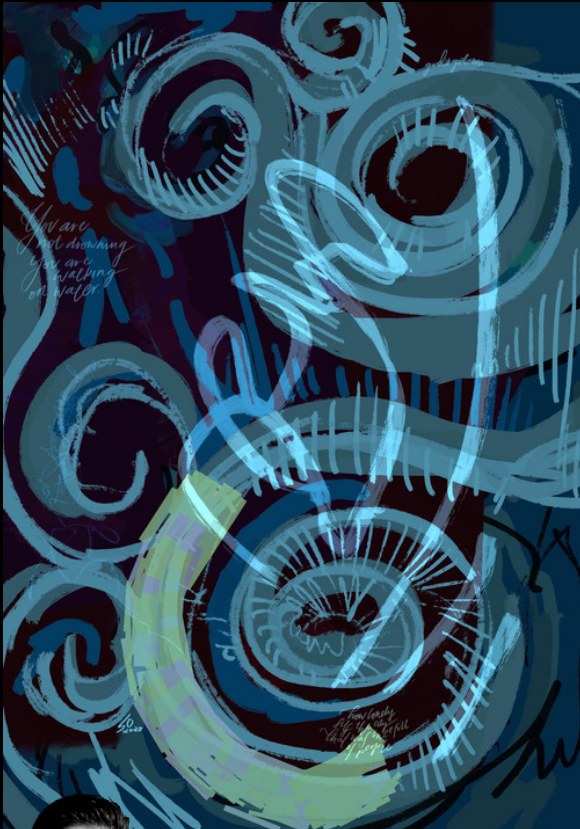
Launched the Collegiate Ministries Podcast with Rich Havard as co-host. 6 episodes launched to explore how to do campus ministry in the midst of dual pandemic — COVID-19 and a flare-up of White supremacy

Selected as a Forum for Theological Exploration Community of Practice. One of 11 organizations chosen from a national pool to join a cohort exploring “How might Christian institutions create conditions where diverse, young adults can explore and pursue their purpose and calling to make a difference in the world through ministry?”





WHAT DOES A 2020 FAITH LOOK LIKE?



Michael O. (They/Them)
@inkybattlefields

"In my own personal experience, 2020 has been tumultuous. While there have been bright moments, there seems to be no reprieve from the anxiety and grief that threatens to pull me under.

Earlier this semester, I wrote a poem titled, "I accidentally found god while unclogging my shower." It encapsulates my relationship with myself, God, and my faith during this difficult season -- all the doubt, the anger, the fatigue -- but the line that sticks out to me most is: "You are not drowning. You are walking on water."

Since then, I've held onto this line like a lifeline. Even though I'm overwhelmed and tired and frustrated, God's got me. That's how I'd summarize my 2020 faith: God's got me, and They won't let me drown."

--
The Inclusive Collective has given me a safe haven that I never thought I would find. As a first-gen nonbinary Filipinx-American, it's difficult for me to integrate into religious spaces. The IC has not only provided a place where I can grow authentically but space where I am free to ask questions that lead to encounters with God that wouldn't have happened otherwise.

If I believe in anything, it's that heaven is the people I love. And the Inclusive Collective -- in its own imperfect, messy, authentic way -- has become that for me.



2020 INCOME

● DONATIONS

\$103,760

Gifts from individuals, churches, and other organizations.

● PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM LOAN

\$13,455

Loan turned grant created by the CARES Act.

● DENOMINATIONAL GRANTS

\$59,000

Grants from our primary denominational partners: the Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church and the Presbytery of Chicago (PC(USA)).



2020 EXPENSES

● **SPIRITUAL FORMATION + WORSHIP**
\$34,990

Creating experiences that shape people to lean into God's love and follow Jesus through small groups, Fall Retreat, Dinner + Worship, and other discipleship programs.

● **SERVICE + JUSTICE**
\$29,088

Living out an active faith through South Loop Community Table, Justice Retreat, and anti-racism initiatives.

● **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**
\$23,707

Equipping Gospel-shaped leaders for the now and the next through our intensive IC Fellows program.

● **EVANGELISM + OUTREACH**
\$12,756

Inviting people into the IC and God's inclusive party through events and digital outreach.

● **HOSPITALITY + CARE**
\$10,182

Nurturing our community through pastoral care, good food, and Covid-relief grants.

● **ADMINISTRATION + FUNDRAISING + TECHNOLOGY**
\$25,809

Building the foundation needed to do our work faithfully through new technology, development, and capacity building systems.



RESERVES +
STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

\$40,783

Due to the generosity of our donors and the Paycheck Protection Program Loan, we were able to create a sustainable and healthy reserves fund and seed new projects to come in 2021 and beyond like the development of a new IC campus.

2020 DONORS

We are so grateful to all of our generous donors. Will you join them? Your gift helps create inclusive Christian community where people experience grace and are fueled to change the world.

Please visit www.LetsGetInclusiveUIC.org/donate

25,000+

Presbytery of Chicago - PC(USA)
Northern IL Conference, UMC

2,000-6,000

First UMC, Chicago
NIC United Methodist Foundation
Knox Presbyterian Church
North Shore Baptist Church
Luke Beasley
Jesseca McDaniel
George and Lola Francis-Corcoran
Alycia Sutor
First United Church, Oak Park
Southminster Presbyterian,
Arlington Heights
Helen Chang
First Presbyterian,
Arlington Heights
Sacha Coupet
Lisl Paul
John and Jennifer Beard
First Presbyterian, Libertyville

1,000-1,999

Glenview UMC
Community Presbyterian Church,
Clarendon Hills
Beth Freese Dammers
Christopher Johnston
Christy Havard
Anne & Christian Coon
Brittany Isaac
Alyne Millsap
David Owens
Isaac Taylor
Carianne Short
Danny & Jasen Gonzalez-Sanchez
Richard Havard
Kimberly Harvey
Chi Chi Okwu
Kim Schnoor
Felix and Josh Huang-Lau
First UMC, LaGrange

500-999

Chicago Sunday Evening Club
Dennis and Corliss Kajmowicz
Kurt Sunderman
Donald and Shari Hetzel
Christine and John Peschier
Liz and Tim Tung-Blegen
David and Jo Wernette-Harnden
Karen Scobee
Gary & Mary Ann Genge
Kyle and Violet Johnicker
Ryan Wallace
Trinity UMC, Mount Prospect
Caleb Leman
Kingswood UMC, Buffalo Grove

200-499

Hedding UMC
First UMC, Arlington Heights
First UMC, Downers Grove
Pat and Gordon Burrows
Joseph Coupet
Mary Gramm and Frank Gutwein
JD and Jason Hall
Amy Lau
Carolyn and MJ Leman
Vicki & Bob Reynolds
Ray Rhoads
Roger Wilson
Stephen Pierce
Kate Soupiset
Yoon Chong
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Zoie Sheets
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Jane Eesley
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Matthew Scotty

100-199

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50-99

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Sophia Hyon
Amy Soupiset
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25-49

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Katy Kuchle
Kaleb Nyquist
Emily Rogalski Miller
Toni Toomer Walls
Dan Miller
Denisse Avalos
Tito Ponce

1-24

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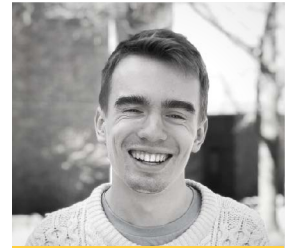
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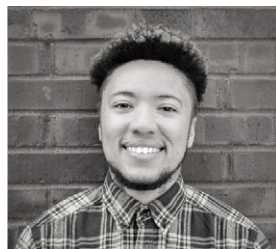
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2019-2020 Intern

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LEANETTE POKUWAAH

*Director of
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*Director of
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*Director of
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**FUELING
YOUNG ADULTS
THROUGH
JESUS ROOTED
SOUL WORK.**