“Power without love is reckless and abusive, and love without power is sentimental and anemic. Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice, and justice at its best is love correcting everything that stands against love.”

— Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
The Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO), founded in 1998, is a broad-based organization that works for the public good by coalescing, training, and organizing people across religious, racial, ethnic, class, and neighborhood lines. Membership consists of 41 congregations in Greater Boston representing more than 50,000 individuals. GBIO organizes people and institutions at neighborhood, city, and state levels.

We believe in making Greater Boston a better place to live, work, and raise a family. Our mission is to build POWER by developing local LEADERS so we can ACT together on issues that matter to our communities.

By engaging thousands of people in identifying important problems and using proven organizing methods to engage and develop leaders, GBIO has built and demonstrated collective strength to achieve a wide variety of goals. As times change, so, too, do the issues GBIO selects.

GBIO is affiliated with the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF), the nation’s first and largest network of multi-faith citizen organizations. Today, the IAF is made up of 65 organizations working in cities and metropolitan areas across the country and internationally, on issues ranging from health care to education to housing.

GBIO is proud to be part of Metro IAF, a branch of the IAF that focuses on building power in cities in the Eastern United States. Those organizations have secured the construction of thousands of units of affordable housing, pioneered work on health care reform, transformed dilapidated and underperforming urban area schools, and gained a whole host of other victories.
How We Work

Although no rigid pattern governs our work, GBIO typically acts in an iterative cycle:

- **We listen** by bringing people together in our member institutions to share stories about issues that affect the quality of our lives, our families, and our communities. Then we choose to focus on issues we all can support;
- We find and **develop leaders** in our member institutions, creating cross-institutional teams that work to build and refine the issues, potential actions, and timing of our strategy to effect change;
- **We identify themes**, looking for issues of common interest across our membership, then do more focused research on these issues, identifying opportunities for relevant, timely, effective action;
- **We build strong relationships** through cross-institutional issue teams. We develop strategies and propose them through periodic Delegate Assemblies across the entire GBIO membership. There we affirm consent for moving forward on specific actions;
- **We act** through GBIO Actions where we gather key public and/or private decision-makers, share members’ stories, define specific solutions, and negotiate with those decision makers;
- **We celebrate success**. We follow issues, often for years, maintain connections with and accountability from our allies and public officials, and celebrate the collective accomplishments of GBIO;
- **We evaluate** continuously to grow, develop, and improve leadership.

Twenty years after its founders first met, GBIO has fulfilled the promise to work across historic barriers to effectively promote social justice on an increasing number of issues.
Letter From Our Co-chairs

To model what we mean by shared leadership, our Strategy Team - GBIO’s board of directors - voted to appoint two Co-Chairs, instead of one President.

In 2019, lay leader Beverly Williams joined Rev. Burns Stanfield, both strong leaders in their communities, to bring all of us in GBIO together and lead us to many accomplishments.

They reflect the reality of our diversity and our strengths. They stand for the whole as they write this introduction to our 2019 Impact Report.

Dear GBIO and Allies:

Over one year ago, we eagerly stepped into new roles designed to lead GBIO through a period of “Refounding”. Our goals, shared by all of GBIO, are to build new relationships, engage new members, grow our power and change our organization to look even more like the Greater Boston that we seek to represent.

How could we not do this? As GBIO, we aim to unite voices in powerful calls for justice. So we must reach out to every community to encounter shared stories of injustice and to raise up new leaders whose voices need to be heard, and acted on by people in positions of power. Our Refounding Campaign is meant to radically rebalance the voices heard speaking justice to power and to radically reduce the “relationship gaps” across race, faith, social and economic divides that exist in Greater Boston. We know it will take all of us, and we thank our membership today for being ready to rethink GBIO from the ground up, as we rise together as a renewed organization.

We now find ourselves more than a year into our Co-Chair roles. Working together has given us a small taste of GBIO’s bigger promise of joining people together across lines of religion, race and class. Commitment to shared power is exactly what Greater Boston needs as it moves into a new chapter after COVID.

Reflecting back on 2019, we never knew what was to come. In facing 2020’s extraordinary events, GBIO quickly found new ways to connect, strategize and act. Whether by Zoom or other means, we advanced our work as a faith-based power organization adding eviction moratoriums and police reform to our work on health care, housing and criminal justice reform. We’ve kept our seat at the decision-making table “in the Zoom where it happens”.

The healing, rebuilding and re-imagining of a more just and equitable community cannot happen without the full engagement of our beautifully diverse population. Because of our work in 2019, work that continues in 2020, GBIO will be poised as a refounded organization to lead in that engagement by connecting, strategizing and acting in shared power. It is our privilege to stand as co-chairs with you.

Beverly Williams and Rev. Burns Stanfield
Co-chairs of GBIO
Refounding and Leadership Development

In April 2019, GBIO’s member institutions voted unanimously on an audacious proposal to refound the organization around a new, more inclusive membership body. This meant that from the Spring of 2019, the overarching goal for GBIO has been to build relationships with new potential member organizations and welcome in 10-20 new members by 2021 reflecting the diversity of Boston, to culminate in a Refounding celebration and ultimately an agenda representing the interests of our new collective.

- GBIO leaders and organizers met with 60 Clergy, Executive Directors, Presidents, CEOs of various congregations or organizations
- Massachusetts Affordable Housing Alliance (MAHA) has already joined GBIO as a new dues-paying member

Affordable Health Care Campaign:
In July, GBIO and coalition partners scored the first health care win in our 2019-2020 legislative campaign — saving $140 million of prescription drug costs in the 2020 state budget.

Affordable Housing:
In July 2019, 900 people gathered at an event organized by GBIO ally Massachusetts Affordable Housing Alliance (MAHA) to celebrate the award of $3.8 million in Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds to assist low-to-moderate income first-time home buyers through the ONE+Boston mortgage program.

Impact Fund:

**GBIO’S 2019 CAMPAIGN RAISED $105,173!**
FROM 399 DONORS
REPRESENTING 34 DIFFERENT INSTITUTIONS AND UNAFFILIATED “GBIO FRIENDS”
Our desire to refound emerged from a hunger for impact, and a desire to tackle head-on the inequities and racial disparities that have long plagued our City, Region and Commonwealth. In early 2019, the GBIO strategy team laid out a proposal to restructure GBIO for the challenges ahead, and congregations and clergy leaders honed this proposal through ongoing conversation and debate.

At an April 2019 delegates assembly, 100% of GBIO member institutions voted to refound.

For the past year organizers and clergy leaders have invested their time in building relationships with new institutions, with a focus on communities of color and low to middle income families. Our current member organizations and leaders focused on training and leadership development.

As a result of building relationships at GBIO’s November 4th Rise Up for Healing Action, we welcomed over 95 guests, representing 43 guest organizations who were exploring becoming refounding members.

Are you interested in becoming a GBIO member? Is your organization interested in joining GBIO? Email us at Kathleen.Patron@gbio.org and we’ll get in touch with you.
Rising Up for Healing

Affordable Accessible Healthcare Campaign

People across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts are struggling with healthcare. In a recent listening campaign that engaged 33 congregations and 1,846 people across Greater Boston, we heard story after story about health care challenges: outrageously-priced prescription drugs, surprise bills, and costly and inaccessible mental health services:

“ My wife felt herself slipping into a deep depression and sought admittance to a psychiatric facility. She was forced to wait in the emergency room for 3 days. ”

“ My husband had a routine colonoscopy, covered by insurance. Yet we received bills for over $1300 for out-of-network doctors’ charges for anesthesia and pathology. ”

“ We had insurance, but the prescription did not last the full month. What if we pay out-of-pocket? That would cost $363 just to cover the ten-day shortage. Big pharma had given us an ultimatum. ”

In 2019, GBIO is embarked on a campaign to achieve real health care reform in the 2019-2020 session of the Massachusetts Legislature by:

1. Lowering Prescription Drug Costs
2. Increasing Access to Affordable Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Care
3. Regulating Out-of-Network “Surprise” Bills
Rising Up for Healing: GBIO in Action

June
Legislative Day Of Action
Over 100 GBIO members along with 40 allies representing our MA Prescription Drug Affordability Coalition participated in a Legislative day of action calling MA legislators to pass language in the 2020 budget that would empower MassHealth to negotiate for lower costs on drugs.

July
Massachusetts Budget Passed with new language to control costs!
In July, new language was included in the 2020 budget giving the Secretary of Health and Human Services the power to develop a proposed value of a drug as well as to hold public hearings if MassHealth (Massachusetts’ Medicaid agency) cannot agree with the drug manufacturer on a fair price. Using this negotiating leverage will lower the state’s prescription drug costs, which have doubled over the last five years. GBIO was instrumental in ensuring that this provision was included in the 2020 budget saving the State $140 Million per year on drug costs.

August
300+ attended “teach-in” on health care reform

November
836 people attended the GBIO Rise Up for Healing Action

“We have faith but have lost our patience.”
— GBIO clergy called on State leadership to rise up for healing.

Senate President Karen Spilka, Senator Cindy Friedman and Secretary of Health and Human Services Marylou Sudders spoke of their commitment and their actions to address our issues. Both Spilka and Sudders shared their own stories of struggling with mental health care of family members.
Beverly Williams, co-chair of GBIO, noted, “Our call to Rise Up for Healing has not fallen on deaf ears. The Governor’s bill has put a stake in the ground and Senate leaders are pushing for reform.” She also had a clear message for our elected officials, “If you rise up, GBIO is with you.”

10 days after GBIO’s November Action, the Massachusetts Senate passed the Pharmaceutical Access, Cost and Transparency (PACT) Act:

**DRUG TRANSPARENCY AND OVERSIGHT**
- Early notice of new drugs and price increases on existing drugs
- Data collection and analysis to understand drug cost drivers

**DRUG ACCESS AND COST IMPROVEMENT WHERE COST IS THE BIGGEST BARRIER TO ACCESS**
- Creates a process to reduce the cost of the most expensive drugs
- Directs pharmacies to disclose the lowest drug price available
- Health Policy Commission (an independent state agency) can establish a proposed value of drugs

**INSULIN COST RELIEF**
- Caps all co-pays at $25
- Excludes spending from deductible and coinsurance
- This provides relief to nearly 700,000 Massachusetts residents living with diabetes!

December
GBIO ended 2019 planning a series of in-district meetings (or IDMs) for the first quarter of 2020, where GBIO will come together in neighborhood groups from across congregations to ask their elected representatives to pass real reform on the three priority issues, Lowering Prescription Drug Costs, Increasing Access to Affordable Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Care, and Regulating Out-of-Network “Surprise” Bills. We also called on them to pass this reform during the legislative session expected to end in July 2020.

Pearl for the World - Issa Bibbins, Roxbury Presbyterian Church.

Scan to find more of Issa Bibbins music.
Our 2019 Individual Donor Campaign

Since 2014, the GBIO Impact Fund has been raising money from individual donors in our congregations and communities who believe in GBIO’s mission and want to support GBIO financially. Starting in 2018, we began recruiting Friends of GBIO - individuals who are not members of GBIO congregations, but people ready to recognize GBIO’s work and GBIO leaders they know. We are grateful for the support of ALL of our 2019 donors.

GBIO’s 2019 Campaign Raised a Total of $105,173!

Donations Ranged From $10 to $10,000

With 19 Donors Set Up Automatic Recurring Donations

8 Congregations Increased the Number of Donors; Increases Ranged from 23% to 100%

13 Congregations Raised More in 2019 Than in 2018; Increases Ranged from 6% to 179%

399 Unique Donors Representing 34 Different Institutions and Unaffiliated “GBIO Friends”

Thank you GBIO Donors!

Thank you for considering a contribution to GBIO.

Members of GBIO have been working hard, but we have the potential and the power to do much more. Please consider a tax-deductible donation so that we can continue to build people power.

• Consider a recurring gift installment every month by or giving online at www.gbio.org.

Thank you for considering a contribution to GBIO.
GBIO Finances

HOW WE ARE FUNDED

GBIO is funded by dues from member organizations, individual donations, corporate donors and foundations. The 2019 annual budget paid for three full-time professional organizers and two part-time support contractors, who guided and served our member organizations. The budget also funds the training of our volunteer leaders each year and covers expenses associated with operating issue campaigns.

2019 GBIO REVENUE

- FOUNDATION GRANTS – $312,500
- MEMBER DUES – $137,119
- IMPACT FUND/2019 INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS – $99,460
- CORPORATE DONATIONS – $25,000
- OTHER – $98

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2019 GBIO USE OF FUNDS

- ORGANIZERS & SUPPORT TEAM – $248,808
- ADMINISTRATION COSTS – $78,299
- CONSULTING – $61,633
- RENT/UTILITIES/TECHNOLOGY, PHONE – $22,049
- TRAININGS AND ACTIONS – $30,865
A big thank you to the team that created this year’s annual report:
GBIO Leaders Barbara Berke, John Weiss and Ted Greenwood
Special thanks to creative design by: Kevin McGeen
Headshots: Leslie Jackson
Other Photography: Hajjah Kamara, Nadya Middleton-Res Star Photography and Design

ORGANIZERS

Kathleen Patrón  
Lead Organizer

Zienab Abdelgany  
Organizer

Shayok Chakraborty  
Organizer

Fran Early  
Volunteer Organizer

SUPPORT TEAM

GBIO thanks Jessica Adler, our outgoing officer manager for her years of service, and her continuing support advising on administration issues.

Kathleen Patrón  
Lead Organizer

Zienab Abdelgany  
Organizer

Shayok Chakraborty  
Organizer

Fran Early  
Volunteer Organizer

2019 Strategy Team
Serving as GBIO’s Board of Directors, leaders from our member organizations are elected to serve three-year terms on the Strategy Team. The Strategy Team authorizes the initiation of new issue campaigns, reviews the progress of current campaigns, and attends to financial and structural aspects of the organization.

MEMBERS

Ms. Barbara Berke  
Temple Israel, Boston

Dr. Jeanette Callahan  
Bethel AME Church, Jamaica Plain

Rev. Pedro Castro  
Grant AME Church, Roxbury

Mr. Alan Epstein  
Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, Newton

Ms. Bonny Gilbert  
Temple Sinai, Brookline

Ms. Fran Godine  
Temple Israel, Boston

Rev. Ray Hammond  
Bethel AME Church, Jamaica Plain

Ms. Nahma Nadich  
Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston

Ms. Faith Perry  
Church of the Covenant, Boston

Mr. Sajid Shahriar  
Greater Boston Labor

Ms. Jumaada Smith  
St. Katharine Drexel Parish, Roxbury

Rev. Burns Stanfield  
Fourth Presbyterian Church, South Boston

Rev. Steve Watson  
Reservoir Church, North Cambridge

Ms. Beverly Williams  
Bethel AME Church, Jamaica Plain
GBIO Member Organizations

Dues-paying member organizations make up our political power in Greater Boston. Leaders from each organization create and shape our issue campaigns and participate in a variety of ways, depending on their interests, talents and passions.

Current Member Organizations

Beth El Temple Center, Belmont
Bethel AME Church, Jamaica Plain
Church of the Covenant, Boston
Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, Newton
First Church Boston, Unitarian Universalist
First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, UCC
First Parish Cambridge, Unitarian Universalist
Fourth Presbyterian Church, South Boston
Grant AME Church, Roxbury
Hancock United Church of Christ, Lexington
Hillel B’nai Torah, West Roxbury
Hope Central Church, Jamaica Plain
Hyde Park Presbyterian
Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center, Roxbury
Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action
Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston
Keke Financial Group
Lutheran Church of the Newtons
Kavod, Boston
Massachusetts Affordable Housing Alliance, Dorchester
Nehar Shalom Community Synagogue, Jamaica Plain
Old South Church, Boston
Reservoir Church, North Cambridge
Resurrection Lutheran Church, Roxbury
Roxbury Presbyterian Church
St. James Episcopal Church, Cambridge
St. Katharine Drexel Parish, Roxbury
St Paul AME Church, Cambridge
Temple Beth Elohim, Wellesley
Temple Beth Zion, Brookline
Temple B’nai Brith, Somerville
Temple Emanuel, Newton
Temple Isaiah, Lexington
Temple Israel, Boston
Temple Ohabei Shalom, Brookline
Temple Shir Tikvah, Winchester
Temple Sinai, Brookline
Trinity Church, Boston
Union Church of Waban
University Lutheran Association of Boston
Workmen’s Circle

Are you interested in becoming a GBIO member?
Is your organization interested in joining GBIO?
Email us at Kathleen.Patron@gbio.org and we’ll get in touch with you.

GBIO Member Organizations

Greater Boston Interfaith Organization

Contact Us

Kathleen Patrón, Lead Organizer, kathleen.patron@gbio.com, 857.350.2373
Zienab Abdelgany, Organizer, zienab.abdelgany@gbio.org, 714-552-5311
Shayok Chakraborty, Organizer, shayok.chakraborty@gbio.org, 818-217-6228
Kendra Gaspard, Office Manager, kendra.gaspard@gbio.org

GBIO mailing address: PO Box 190892, Roxbury, MA 02119

Learn More

On our website: www.GBIO.org
“Like” us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/gbio
Follow us on Twitter: @GBInterfaith