



# Annual Report 2021

**Overview** — Like everyone, our work has been heavily affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. We moved our programming and organizing efforts online—and found that to some degree it was more effective!

We supported efforts to effectively address the pandemic, including by temporarily limiting in-person gatherings in houses of worship. We worked to make sure that Federal relief (CARES) money was used to keep people in their homes, and in our 2021 Advocacy priorities focused on addressing the inequalities — in housing, employment, and healthcare — that were exposed or exacerbated by the pandemic.

We are grateful that our fundraising remained stable and that we have been able to continue our important work.

**Advocacy** — Our advocacy and lobby efforts were somewhat curtailed by COVID-related restrictions. Yet we still made a strong showing in Topeka, testing on over 10 bills and sponsoring action alerts on 5. We are part of coalitions working on payday loan reform, voting rights protections, climate and clean energy, and of course Medicaid Expansion. Our efforts against SB 172, a bill to criminalize protests at fossil fuel infrastructure, received national attention.

Our annual advocacy day turned into an online advocacy week, with speakers, issue workshops, and online meetings with legislators. Over 200 people attended, and it became a model for what other public interest groups could do with “virtual” lobbying.



**Racial Justice**—KIFA established a Racial Justice Working group, to help discern advocacy priorities and facilitate outreach and connection to communities of color. The RJWG sponsored a series of voter-outreach events before the 2020 election.

KIFA held a 6-session seminar for predominantly white churches on the history of racial inequities in the US and in Kansas and actions we can take, both in our faith communities and in the public square. Over 70 people attended the well-received series.

KIFA Advocacy Week culminated with a statewide vigil to lift up the history of racial violence in Kansas, bringing needed attention to this undertold story.

**Outreach**—We initiated monthly meetings of local KIFA chapters based on Kansas' congressional districts, engaging people in KIFA's outreach and advocacy efforts and giving an opportunity to build community with other local faith-based advocates. Our monthly calls for Kansas clergy continue—please join us!

Last fall's "Faith and Public Policy Forum" took place on Facebook Live with over 1,000 views. We anticipate turning this into an issue series this fall.

We hope to return to travel and in-person outreach, so please reach out to us to talk about faith-based advocacy at your church!

## THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

KANSAS

### History of terror lynchings of Black people in Kansas is remembered by faith group

**Partnerships**—This year KIFA established a partnership with the Mercy & Justice Team of the Great Plains Conference of the United Methodist Church, to join our ongoing partnerships with the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference of the United Church of Christ, the Central States Synod of the ELCA, and the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas. We are grateful to all our denomination partners for their support.

#### ***Putting faith into action ...***

Kansas Interfaith Action  
PO Box 654, Lawrence, KS 66004  
(913) 232-2336

<https://KansasInterfaithAction.org>  
Email: [kifa@KansasInterfaithAction.org](mailto:kifa@KansasInterfaithAction.org)

Facebook and Instagram: @kansasinterfaithaction  
Twitter: @ks\_interfaith & @KIFA\_Climate