

Executive Summary

Faith Community Consultation: A Strategy Session for Systemic Change

Creating tools for faith, health, and community leaders to "Fight On"

On February 21, 2025, faith and community leaders, educators, policymakers, and advocates gathered in Indianapolis for the 4th **Faith Community Consultation** —a pivotal moment in Indiana’s ongoing efforts to improve health, education, and general welfare. Hosted by the Indiana Ministerium in collaboration with The AfricaLogical Institute and the Interdisciplinary Research Leaders (IRL) program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the consultation created space for urgent conversations, strategic action, and sustained collaboration.

Centered around three core panel discussions—**health, education, and welfare**—the Faith Community Consultation created a platform for shared learning and cross-sector strategy. Panel Moderators included Dr. Ivan Douglas Hicks, Dr. David Craig, and Dr. Gwen Kelley, who facilitated rich discussions on current legislative threats, policy gaps, and organizing opportunities to uplift Indiana’s most vulnerable residents. (See full list of Panelists below).

Indiana Faith Community Consultation

February 21st - 1PM - 4PM

* IN PERSON AT CAPACITY/REGISTER FOR MATERIALS & STREAM UNITED WAY OF CENTRAL INDIANA **Stream**

Greetings



Health

Dr. David Craig - Team Indiana of The Interdisciplinary Research Leaders Program of The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Tracey-Hutchings-Goetz - Hoosier Action
State Representative Greg Porter - Health and Hospital Corporation
Adam Mueller, Esq. - Indiana Justice Project

Education

Dr. Gwen Kelley - Editor - The Black Academic Excellence Plan
Vice President The AfricaLogical Institute/Children's Policy & Law Initiative
Jerell Blakeley - Educational Consultant - Lecturer Rutgers University
Josh Riddick - Indiana Black Church Coalition
Andrea Hunley - Indiana State Senator
Dr. Aleesia Johnson - Superintendent Indianapolis Public Schools

General Welfare

Ivan Douglas Hicks, Ph.D. - The Indiana Ministerium
Dr. Wayne Moore - President Baptist Ministerial Alliance
Rabbi Aaron Spiegel - Greater Indianapolis MultiFaith Alliance
Pastor David Greene - Concerned Clergy

Remarks - Indiana State Senator Fady Quaddora



AfricaLogical

Community Engagement & Infrastructure

A core success factor of the Faith Community Consultation was its comprehensive engagement and execution strategy, which ensured the event's reach, resonance, and replicability. Supporting partners, including [Onyx Rising](#), a change management consulting firm, were instrumental in developing and executing the full event infrastructure, which included:

- **Marketing and Communications Strategy**
- **Social Media Posting Plan**
- **Invitation Video and Post-Event Thank You Video**
- **Press Release and Media Coordination**
- **Branded Program Agenda**
- **Panelist Run-of-Show and Facilitation Materials**
- **Promotional Flyers**
- **Pre-Event Briefings and Stakeholder Alignment Meetings**

This holistic approach led to strong in-person attendance and virtual participation, signaling both community readiness and institutional alignment around the FCC's objectives.

Communications & Legacy Tools

The Faith Community Consultation was professionally filmed and later developed into a full-length documentary titled ***Fight On***, capturing the tone, urgency, and leadership of the day. Transcripts of the meeting were also produced for further analysis, accessibility, and archiving.

As a result of this work, *Fight On* has expanded into a growing body of tools and resources that communities across the country can use to educate, organize, and advocate. These include:

- The ["Fight On" Documentary](#)
- **Meeting Transcripts** for content replication and messaging reference

Additional communications and engagement tools that support replication in other cities and states including this "Fight On" - Medicaid Panoply document are full of tools to continue the fight for change.

Outcomes & Impact

The Faith Community Consultation catalyzed a series of next steps across Indiana's advocacy landscape, reinvigorating cross-sector networks and inspiring additional coalition-building. The model presented through the Faith Community Consultation—built on a foundation of **faith leadership, civic engagement, and policy awareness**—is now being shared with communities across the U.S. as a scalable approach to coordinated change.

Faith institutions have emerged from this process not only as moral leaders but as **strategic partners** in the fight for access, equity, and justice. What began in 2021 with a small group of community and faith leaders, now serves as a **replicable framework** and toolset for others committed to building stronger, healthier, and more informed communities.

Faith Community Consultation Event Program

PROGRAM

2025 FAITH COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2025

THE UNITED WAY OF CENTRAL INDIANA

2955 NORTH MERIDIAN STREET | INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

LUNCH: 12PM to 1PM | PROGRAM: 1PM TO 4PM

1:00PM - OPENING PRAYER

- Richard Reynolds - The Ministerium

1:02 PM - WELCOME REMARKS

- David Greene - Concerned Clergy
- Warren Dukes - United Way of Central Indiana
- Rabbi Aaron Spiegel - Greater Indianapolis MultiFaith Alliance

1:05PM - PURPOSE & INTRODUCTION OF THE MODERATORS

- Dr. Ivan Douglas Hicks - The Ministerium

1:15PM - HEALTH

Moderator: Dr. David Craig - Team Indiana IRL Program of The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Panelists:

- Tracey-Hutchings-Goetz - Hoosier Action
- State Representative Greg Porter | Health & Hospital Corporation
- Adam Mueller, Esq. - Indiana Justice Project

2:00PM - EDUCATION

Moderator: Dr. Gwendolyn Kelley - Editor - The Black Academic Excellence Plan. Vice President, AfricaLogical Institute/Children's Policy & Law Initiative

Panelists:

- Jerell Blakeley - Education Consultant | AfricaLogical Institute
- Josh Reddick - Indiana Black Church Coalition
- Andrea Hunley - Indiana State Senator
- Dr. Aleesia Johnson - Superintendent Indianapolis Public Schools

3:00PM - GENERAL WELFARE

Moderator: Dr. Ivan Douglas Hicks - The Indiana Ministerium, Pastor, First Baptist Church North/Founder, The AfricaLogical Institute

Panelists:

- Dr. Wayne Moore - President Baptist Ministerial Alliance
- Rabbi Aaron Spiegel - Greater Indianapolis MultiFaith Alliance
- Pastor David Greene - Concerned Clergy
- Mark Russell - Indianapolis Urban League

3:45PM - CLOSING REMARKS

- Indiana State Senator Fady Qaddoura
- Ivan Douglas Hicks, Ph.D.



Meeting Follow Up Materials

The items highlighted below were created as a follow up to the Faith Community Consultation meeting. These items were distributed during the meeting on the back of the program and made available on the AfricaLogical Institute website for ease of accessibility.

Specifically, a “Call to Action” section was created on the website where individuals could download material and/or get information.

Finally, participants were asked to complete a survey and provide their input regarding the effectiveness of the meeting and their perspective on the top priorities for the community.

**Meeting Materials &
Call-to-Action
Documents**



**Thank You
Video**



**Indiana Faith
Community
Consultation
Meeting Survey**

