

THE GAMALIEL FOUNDATION'S FAITH AND DEMOCRACY PLATFORM

The Gamaliel Foundation is an organizing institute that brings together communities of people living out our faith and values to bring about justice and collectively transform our society. We hold that all people are part of a sacred community, intended by God to realize their own dignity, worth, power and voice.

FAITH & DEMOCRACY



We affirm equal opportunity for all and abhor all forms of injustice flowing from racism, poverty, and intolerance. As people with faith in a good and just God, we proclaim the values of shared abundance, sacred community, unrelenting hope, equal opportunity and justice.

Segregation and racism are primary and driving forces inside American politics, culture and society. Racism fuels the current injustice and the current political reality we experience every day. Racism is masked and concealed inside a system of spatial segregation. Racism ultimately says that not only am I not my brothers' and sisters' keeper, but that they are not my brothers and my sisters.

Confronting what divides us is deeply spiritual and requires humility and openness to transformation. This is also deeply political because civilizations and societies are structured around how they answer this question. Spiritual transformation and societal transformation are linked. As people of faith, we proclaim that all our fates are linked; we are connected and that love is at the center.

We have a vision for our country that is based on radical hope, inclusive community, and shared abundance for all. We believe that we are called to participate in the democratic process, in shaping a future that works for all of us. The transformation of the soul of our country, our democracy, is both a political project and a spiritual project. It requires a body of people willing to live, to act, and to project a new way of being. Our faith is a path to a new way of being: spiritually and politically.

Gamaliel exists to effect the systemic changes necessary to advance the values we have claimed, and to that end, to form organizations that empower ordinary people to effectively participate in the political, environmental, social and economic decisions affecting their lives.

The Gamaliel Foundation brings our faith and values to our collective work. We seek to educate and train ourselves and our community. We affirm sacred community, equal opportunity for all, shared abundance, and good stewardship.

We commit to the following Faith and Democracy platform:

Healthcare Reform

Our current health care system reinforces social division in this nation between those who have and those who have not. The Gamaliel Foundation asserts its faith values of sacred community and equal opportunity for all. Each person has an equal right to quality health care. More than 47 million people in the United States have no health insurance, many millions more are inadequately insured, soaring costs threaten personal, corporate, and social economies, and uneven access to quality health care creates yet another harsh dividing line in our society. The Gamaliel Foundation will engage in strategic statewide and national campaigns to achieve universal access to affordable, quality health care for all residents of the United States.

Comprehensive Immigration Reform

Current immigration policies represent a force promoting division and fear. They leave millions of workers in the shadows, vulnerable to abuse because they lack legal documentation, and unable to fully participate in a country they have helped to build. We will work for a comprehensive approach that provides work permits and a path to citizenship for those here and contributing, expanded family and worker visas, and smart enforcement.

Opportunity Housing

We believe that every family deserves to live in an “opportunity community,” defined as a community that includes both good jobs and good schools. We will work for fair share housing: where all communities within a metropolitan area shall include their fair share of the region’s low income and affordable housing. Gamaliel opposes segregation of housing by class and race and policies by local governments to establish barriers to low income and affordable housing that create or exacerbate segregation.

Transportation

Transportation is at the very center of opportunity for jobs, maintaining our health and connecting our communities. When transportation serves as a barrier to employment opportunities or access to the services offered by the community, something is unacceptably wrong and it is imperative that people of faith respond. We will work for transportation systems that provide equal access for all members of the community, as well as sustain and support the whole creation.

Jobs and Economic Development

Work, at its best, is not a burden but a glad and collaborative response to the One who created us. It should reflect God’s creative and redemptive purposes by providing not only a means of subsistence but also a way to honor human dignity and allow all too equally participate in community life. Gamaliel will work to get thousands of living wage construction jobs for low-income people, minorities, women and ex-offenders through alliances with minority contractors, unions and training providers and securing workforce development agreements with state transportation departments and other public entities.



For more information about the Faith and Democracy Campaign or the Gamaliel Network, contact your local Gamaliel Affiliate or www.gamaliel.org