



# OFFICE OF FAITH & NON-PROFIT DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

## July 2024 Newsletter

Greetings and welcome back! Please use this newsletter for information on upcoming events, funding opportunities, and resources to ensure your organizations can thrive.

### Lessons From Our Interfaith Dialogue



On June 26, dozens of faith-based leaders gathered at Lincoln Center to engage in an interactive Interfaith Dialogue with the goal of fostering collaboration and discussing ways to improve interfaith practices.

The dialogue was centered around how we as leaders in New York State encourage Interfaith collaboration through the lens of:

- Creating safe spaces for healthy discussion and debate
- Building relationships and focusing on common values
- Participating in joint service projects, with an emphasis on youth involvement
- Educating, informing, and including technology and social media

In these times of division, it's crucial to have these discussions and share ideas with those from different backgrounds than our own. The insights and perspectives shared will undoubtedly help us move forward stronger and more united than ever.

Overarching themes from the dialogue included:

- Creating opportunities that go beyond surface level interactions to establish strong relationships and bridge the gap, such as:
  - Visiting each other's places of worship and communities
  - Identifying opportunities to engage in collaborative service projects
  - Leveraging existing federal holidays such as Diwali, MLK Day, and Juneteenth to gather the community in service projects and shared hospitality
- Needing to identify common ground, core values, clear goals, and trust
- Understanding what we can agree to disagree on



## Recent Highlights





## Executive Committee Spotlight

### *Meet Senior Pastor and Assistant Professor Kia C. Brooks*

**Q:** What led you to become a faith based leader?

**A:** I became a faith based leader because I am called to serve, impact a generation and to make a difference in the lives of those I serve.

**Q:** Looking ahead, what are your aspirations for the interfaith community in New York State, and how do you see the Executive Committee contributing to the realization of these goals?

**A:** I am committed to helping to organize events, dialogue sessions and community engagement to support discussion and understanding. My greatest aspiration for my position on the Executive Committee is to see the interfaith community educate and advocate for diverse religious beliefs and practices.

**Q:** Are you focused on any particular issue area right now?

**A:** We are focused on evangelism, education and youth & young adult outreach programs.

**Q:** What are you most proud of in terms of the work you and your organization have done?

**A:** I am incredibly proud of the outreach we have achieved with young adults from six higher education institutions who are members and ongoing supporters of GREATER, The Kingdom Church, Inc. These individuals include scholars from Nazareth University, where I serve as a Professor, as well as students from SUNY Brockport, my alma mater, where I teach a weekly independent Bible class. I also maintain a strong connection with Monroe Community College, another alma mater, where I continue to offer support and speak to students. Additionally, I have engaged with students from SUNY Empire State, Genesee Community College where I previously worked in diversity, and the University of Rochester, located in the same community as our church.

It brings me immense joy to be able to connect with and support young adults from diverse backgrounds and educational institutions. Through teaching independent Bible classes, providing mentorship, and speaking at these institutions, I strive to make a positive impact on their lives, fostering personal growth, spiritual development, and a sense of community. By engaging with these students and scholars, I hope to inspire and empower the future leaders and contributors of our society. I am grateful for the opportunity to be involved in their journey and look forward to continuing to support and guide them in their pursuits.





## Upcoming Events



**We are on tour!** We just heard communities in Clinton, Hamilton, Essex, and Franklin Counties. Keep an eye out for an invitation to a county near you so we can hear directly from our communities on how we can best support them.

**Does your organization have public events coming up?** Fill out [THIS FORM](#) to have it included in our next newsletter.

## Connect with us!

Do you have any employees, recent initiatives, or content you want included in our next newsletter? Fill out [THIS FORM](#).

Please fill out [THIS FORM](#) to be added to our database of faith leaders.

### Important Interfaith Dates This Month

July 7 - Islamic New Year  
July 8-9 - Martyrdom of the Bab  
July 16-17 - Ashura  
July 23 - Fast of Tammuz  
July 31 - Feast of St. Ignatius Loyola



## Getting Started with Grants Management for Nonprofit Faith-Based Organization

### Statewide Financial System

The [Statewide Financial System \(SFS\)](#) is New York State's enterprise system for viewing grant opportunities and managing grant applications, grant contracts, and claims for payment online. SFS also includes the State's Prequalification application system, which allows nonprofit organizations to become prequalified to do business with New York State.

### Registration

Complete registration information can be found on the [Grants Management Website](#).

Organizations must be registered in the Statewide Financial System to compete for New York State grants.

#### Types of Registration:

**New SFS Registration:** Select this option if your organization is not already registered as a vendor in SFS. Access to Grants Management will be provided as part of your initial registration. Download, Complete, and Attach the Substitute W-9 Upload: Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification.

**Access Grant Management:** Existing SFS Vendors only. Select this option if your organization is already an SFS vendor but has not been provided access to Grants Management. Provide your SFS Vendor ID.

*Disclaimer: New York State Grants Management reserves 5-10 business days from the receipt of complete materials to process a registration request. Due to the length of time this process could take to complete, it is advised that new registrants send their registration form as soon as possible. Failure to register early enough may prevent potential applicants from being able to complete a grant application on time.*

#### How to Register:

- Download and complete the [Grants Management Registration Form for Statewide Financial System \(SFS\) Vendors](#)
- The form must be authorized by the head of the organization.
- The form must be notarized. The notary must complete each box in the "Acknowledgement to be completed by a Notary Public" section, and then sign and stamp the form. Please note: NYS now allows Electronic Notarization. Notaries must be physically located in NYS for this service to be valid. For more information on electronic notarization, visit the NYS Department of State Website.
- If your organization does not already have a New York State SFS Vendor ID, complete and attach the [Substitute W-9 Form](#)
- If your organization already has an SFS Vendor ID, do not submit a Substitute W-9 Form.
- Return all forms by email to [grants\\_reform@its.ny.gov](mailto:grants_reform@its.ny.gov).