

First Event:

April 1996

PCG's founders organize their first event on a public issue: a forum on education funding, held at Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago.

Appointment of Executive Director:

May 1996

Protestants for the Common Good is incorporated as a 501(c)3 organization and Al Sharp is appointed as Executive Director.

First Curriculum:

September 1996

The newly developed curriculum, "Faith and Public Issues," is presented by PCG for the first time at St. Pauls United Church of Christ in Chicago.

Civil Rights Rally:

November 1998

PCG hosts a rally featuring Rev. James Lawson, civil rights leader, and David Halberstam, author, at First Congregational Baptist Church in Chicago.

William Sloane Coffin Celebration:

May 2000

PCG hosts a 75th Birthday Tribute to William Sloane Coffin with 600 guests in attendance.

Interfaith Open Communities Forms:

June 2000

PCG initiates IOC, an ecumenical coalition, to bring forward the need for open and affordable housing.

Ethics Reform Passes:

May 2002

PCG's Religious Leaders' Network for Campaign Finance Reform helps pass HB 4680, an ethics bill which prohibits state and local employees from soliciting campaign contributions from businesses over which they have regulatory control.

PCG Establishes Common Good Network:

October 2002

PCG publishes the first issue of the CGN, a bi-weekly electronic magazine containing issue analysis, theological reflections, lectionary commentary, and calls to action.

Let Justice Roll, Chicago Rally:

October 2004

PCG organizes an ecumenical worshipful rally, Let Justice Roll, Chicago, featuring James Forbes and Jim Wallis. The Covenant Against Poverty and for the Common Good is signed by over 500, and soon thereafter the Let Justice Roll Coalition is launched.

Ex-offender Bill Passes:

November 2004

PCG assists in the passage of SB 3007 which permits the sealing of records for certain non-violent ex-offenders.

Endowment challenge:

June 2006

PCG announces an endowment challenge through The Chicago Community Trust, in which every dollar raised by PCG (up to \$500,000) will be matched, for a total of one million dollars.

Affordable housing:

September 2006

PCG and partners hold a clergy press conference and deliver a letter to the Mayor signed by 120 clergy from virtually every ward in the city, calling for the passage of the Affordable Housing Set Aside Ordinance.

Welfare Reform Efforts:

February 1997

PCG collects nearly 5,000 signatures on a petition advocating welfare reform, holds a press conference, and presents it to Governor Edgar and legislative leadership.

Town Hall Forum:

June 1997

PCG co-sponsors a Town Hall Forum on Money and Politics with U.S. Senators Russ Feingold (D-Wis.) and John McCain (R-Ariz.). Over 500 hundred citizens attend with Rev. Kenneth Smith giving the keynote statement.

Establishment of Justice Coalition for Greater Chicago:

May 1999

With the leadership of Don Benedict, PCG helps to form JCGC. Working with the JCGC, PCG drafts Twelve Points of Police Accountability and participates in meeting with Police Superintendent Terry Hilliard.

Welfare Justice Now Campaign:

September 1999

PCG begins an interfaith campaign to advocate for an increase in the welfare cash grant.

Meeting with Governor:

December 2001

"Friends of PCG" meet with Governor George Ryan at Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago to communicate concerns about budget cuts in human services and to ask for an increase in the welfare cash grant (The latter was achieved in 2002 when a 5% increase was included in the state budget.)

Lake/Mikva Event:

October 2003

PCG hosts the event, "What Rules are Sacred? American Idealism and the Threat of Terrorism," with speakers Judge Abner Mikva and former National Security Advisor Anthony Lake.

Human Rights Legislation Passes:

January 2005

PCG plays a key roll in the passage of legislation banning discrimination in housing, employment, and credit on the basis of sexual orientation (HB3186).

Predatory Lending Reform Passes:

May 2005

PCG, as a member of a steering committee, provides significant support for the curtailing of predatory practices in the payday loan industry (HB1100). Nearly 75 clergy from around the state attend a press conference organized by PCG.

"Faith and the Metropolitan Challenge" is Developed:

September 2005

PCG publishes "Faith and the Metropolitan Challenge," calling upon people of faith to pursue public policies that will help rectify the stratification of the Chicago region by income and race.

Budgets are Moral Documents Protest:

December 2005

PCG organizes a prayer vigil at Speaker Hastert's office and participates in civil disobedience in Washington, DC, in opposition to domestic spending cuts and tax cuts that hurt poor working families.

