

GVAT (Greater Victoria Acting Together for the Common Good)

Since 2018, Holy Cross has been a member of GVAT.

What is GVAT?

It is an alliance of faith congregations, unions, and environmental, education and frontline service organizations – joining forces to tackle some of the toughest social justice issues in Greater Victoria.

There are currently 22 member associations, and the list is growing.

What other Catholic associations have joined GVAT?

Saint Patrick's Parish, Saint Vincent de Paul Society, Sisters of St. Ann. GVAT has the full support of Bishop Gary Gordon.

What are some of the other associations in GVAT?

St. John the Divine Anglican Church, Cadboro Bay United Church, Fairfield United Church, Congregation Emmanuel, First Unitarian Church of Victoria, BC Government and Service Employee's Union, Greater Victoria Teachers' Association, UVic Graduate Students' Society, Sierra Club BC, Our Place Society, Anawim Companion Society, Cool Aid Society, Indigenous Perspectives Society, AIDS Vancouver Island . . .

What is Holy Cross's involvement in GVAT?

At Fr. William's suggestion, members of the Holy Cross Social & Eco Justice Committee started attending GVAT organizational meetings and workshops in the summer of 2016. Holy Cross officially joined the GVAT as a dues-paying member in 2018.

What is GVAT working on currently?

On Nov. 18, 2018, 90 representatives from 21 organizations (including 5 from Holy Cross) met and voted to focus our work on two issues: 1. **Housing for all**, and 2. **Mental Health and Addictions** – through the lenses of Climate Justice and Reconciliation.

What does Holy Cross need to do now?

Form a core team to represent our parish and work with GVAT. Every parishioner interested in making Greater Victoria a more caring community for all is invited to join. Parishioners with experience in community organization would be particularly valuable.

What else can Holy Cross parishioners do to help?

Make a financial donation to the GVAT through its website: <https://www.gvat.ca/>

How can you find out more about GVAT?

Contact Yvonne Hsieh (yhsieh@uvic.ca, 250-385-8322) or Mary Nall (mnall@shaw.ca, 250-474-5252).