

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 32 member organizations with over 100,000 members across Greater Victoria, including religious organizations, unions, student societies, conservation groups, and front-line service providers.

What other Catholic organizations have joined GVAT?

Saint Patrick's Parish, Sisters of St. Ann, and Society of Friends of St. Ann's Academy. GVAT has the full support of Bishop Gary Gordon.

What are some of the other associations in GVAT?

The Anglican Diocese of British Columbia, St. John the Divine Anglican Church, Cadboro Bay United Church, Fairfield United Church, Congregation Emmanuel, First Unitarian Church of Victoria, BC Government and Service Employees Union, BC Federation of Labour, Greater Victoria Teachers Association, Hospital Employees Union, UVic Student Society, UVic Graduate Students Society, Camosun College Students Society, Sierra Club BC, Climate Justice Victoria, Our Place Society, Anawim Companion Society, Cool Aid Society, AVI Health and Community Services . . .

What is Holy Cross's involvement in GVAT?

At Fr. William's suggestion, members of the Holy Cross Social & Eco Justice Committee (SEJC) started attending GVAT organizational meetings and workshops in the summer of 2016. Holy Cross officially joined GVAT in 2018. Three members of the SEJC actively serve on GVAT Action Research Teams and its Strat Hub (Steering Committee); the remaining members support them in their work. The SEJC periodically involves Holy Cross parishioners in GVAT campaigns through letter-writing.

What is GVAT working on currently?

There are three Action Research Teams (ARTs) focusing on 1) affordable housing, 2) mental health and addictions, 3) climate change. Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples is also an issue of high priority with GVAT.

What can parishioners do to help?

Every parishioner interested in making Greater Victoria a healthier, more caring community for all is invited to join GVAT ARTs. A financial donation can also be made through the GVAT website: www.gvat.ca.

How can you find out more about GVAT?

Contact Yvonne Hsieh (yhsieh@uvic.ca, 250-385-8322), Mary Nall (mnall@shaw.ca, 250-474-5252), or Linda Leone (lindaleone@telus.net, 250-383-9103).