

## **GVAT (Greater Victoria Acting Together for the Common Good)**

Holy Cross and St. Patrick's are both member organizations of GVAT.

### **What is GVAT?**

It is an alliance of 24 member organizations with tens of thousands of members across Greater Victoria, including faith groups, unions, student societies, environmental organizations, and front-line service providers.

### **What other Catholic organization is a member of GVAT?**

The Sisters of St. Ann have been a member organization of GVAT since its inception. GVAT has the full support of Bishop Gary Gordon.

### **What are some of the other associations in GVAT?**

The Anglican Diocese of Islands and Inlets, St. John the Divine Anglican Church, Broad View United Church, Fairfield United Church, BC Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, Congregation Emanu-el, First Unitarian Church of Victoria, BC General Employees Union (BCGEU), Camosun College Students Society, Sierra Club BC, Climate Justice Victoria, Our Place Society, Anawim Companion Society, Cool Aid Society, Mustard Seed Street Church. . .

### **What is Holy Cross's involvement in GVAT?**

Gord Stuart, a parishioner of St. Patrick's, was one of the founding members of 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. Two members of the SEJC actively serve on GVAT committees (one of them is Vice-Chair of the GVAT Board of Directors); the remaining members support them in their work. The SEJC periodically involves Holy Cross and St. Patrick's parishioners in GVAT campaigns through letter-writing and attendance at rallies.

### **What is GVAT working on currently?**

There are two Action Research Teams (ARTs) focusing on 1) affordable housing, and 2) climate justice. 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 participate actively in GVAT activities. A financial donation can also be made through the GVAT website: [www.gvat.ca](http://www.gvat.ca).

### **How can you find out more about GVAT?**

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