



### Faith in Florida - Hillsborough

Faith in Florida - Hillsborough has received three consecutive grants from the CCHD since 2018, including its [most recent grant of \\$40,000](#). Since 2018, Faith in Florida - Hillsborough has received a total of \$100,000.

CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT 2020-2021 GRANTEES			
Diocese	Grantee	Issue Area	Grant
Diocese of Saint Petersburg	Faith in Florida Hillsborough	Civil Rights/Racism	40,000.00

At issue is that Faith in Florida - Hillsborough is an affiliate of Faith in Action, which has formally decided to fight for abortion as a "right," and an affiliate of Faith in Florida, which has taken the same position. In addition to this, the leadership of Faith in Florida has declared their allegiance to the fight for abortion so-called "rights" as well.

The CCHD absolutely forbids organizations from membership in organizations acting against Catholic teaching. In an [FAQ on the USCCB website](#), the CCHD directly answers the question about whether grantees may be members of coalitions that oppose Catholic teachings. In answer, the CCHD firmly stated, "CCHD will not fund groups that are knowingly members of coalitions that have as part of their organizational purpose or coalition agenda, positions or actions that contradict fundamental Catholic moral and social teaching."

## What about participation in coalitions for a good purpose, like better wages or housing, that include groups acting against Catholic values on other issues?

CCHD encourages groups to work across geographical, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological lines to overcome poverty and advance the common good. However, CCHD will not fund groups that are knowingly members of coalitions that have as part of their organizational purpose or coalition agenda, positions or actions that contradict fundamental Catholic moral and social teaching (e.g. promotion or support of abortion, same-sex marriage, euthanasia, racism, as well as the use of the death penalty punitive measures toward immigrants, etc.). Prohibited activities include participation in or endorsing actions that promote legislation, and ballot initiatives (including voter guides and other written materials) that contradict Catholic moral or social teaching.

Faith in Florida - Hillsborough is a local member of Faith in Florida, which is an affiliate of Faith in Action. It's like the finger on the hand of an arm. As you can see here, Faith in Florida is an [affiliate of Faith in Action](#).

### Faith in Action Federations:

- 
- ▶ Alabama
  - ▶ Arizona
  - ▶ California
  - ▶ Colorado
  - ▶ Florida
  - ▶ FAITH IN FLORIDA,  
ORLANDO
  - ▶ Louisiana
  - ▶ Massachusetts
  - ▶ Michigan
  - ▶ Minnesota
  - ▶ Missouri
  - ▶ Nevada
  - ▶ New Mexico
  - ▶ New York
  - ▶ Ohio
  - ▶ Pennsylvania
  - ▶ Texas
  - ▶ Vermont

Faith in Action is a coalition of 49 members, many of whom receive funding from the CCHD. Faith in Action itself [received \\$500,000 in 2016 from the CCHD](#), when it was called the PICO Network. However, Faith in Action publicly supports abortion, its leaders openly slammed the overturn of Roe v. Wade, and FIA participated in electioneering activities [in support of President Joe Biden](#) and other Democratic candidates. The organization also supports LGBTQ+ ideologies.

All of the pertinent information regarding Faith in Action on the whole is contained in the fully detailed report on FIA ([see here](#)), but the most important point is this:

On the day of the Supreme Court's ruling on the Dobbs v. Jackson case which overturned Roe v. Wade, Faith in Action took a formal position condemning the ruling, while vowing to "stand with women" calling it "oppression" to deny a woman the right to murder her child through abortion.

In an [official press release](#), published on Faith in Action's website, Faith in Action said:

"Clergy and organizers with **Faith in Action**, the largest grassroots, faith-based organizing network in the United States, are **speaking out against today's Supreme Court decision to overturn Roe v. Wade**, following a leak of the Supreme Court opinion."

FIA's executive director Rev. Alvin Herring called the decision, "a huge blow to women in this season of despair," and declared that "[w]e must speak out against dangerous policies that chip away at **having agency over their own bodies**."

Rev. Dr. Cassandra Gould, FIA's Senior Strategist at FIA's Washington, DC office, claimed that the "SCOTUS decision to overturn ROE" was "legalized, judicially enforced oppression" that "shows contempt for the Creator."

Rev. Kamilah Hall Sharp, member of FIA's Organizing Clergy Board, said that the decision to overturn Roe v. Wade was "deadly," and that she was "enraged at the injustice, the lack of care for women and that most people who voted to **take this right away will never have to carry an unwanted pregnancy** to term in their bodies." She then had the audacity to claim that "As a follower of Jesus," her rage about the overturning of Roe "aligns with [H]is."

This is the entire statement as it appeared on the Faith in Action website:

## News & Media

# FAITH LEADERS STAND WITH WOMEN AFTER SCOTUS DECISION, DEMAND EXPANDED ACCESS TO MATERNAL HEALTH CARE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** June 24, 2022

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**WASHINGTON**—Clergy and organizers with [Faith in Action](#), the largest grassroots, faith-based organizing network in the United States, are speaking out against today's Supreme Court decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, following a leak of the Supreme Court opinion.

"This is a huge blow to women in this season of despair. As people of faith, we are called on to join with women who are afraid today. We must speak out against dangerous policies that chip away at having agency over their own bodies," said The Rev. Alvin Herring, executive director of Faith in Action. "This country pretends to be a nation that cares about the wellbeing of women when millions of women are without health insurance and access to maternal health care. It is also no secret who will be most affected: poor Black and Brown women. Our collective liberation relies on all of us having the tools to live our fullest lives and make decisions grounded in our own values and beliefs. As faith leaders, it is not our place to judge others for their circumstances – rather, it is our job to stand against policies that make the lives of women more difficult."

This decision comes in the midst of women across the United States are struggling to find formula to feed their babies and the irony is not lost on these leaders. The U.S. also has the highest maternal mortality rate of any developed nation and its currently the highest it has been in decades.

"The U.S. from its origin has been a tale of two countries, the privileged and the underprivileged. We are also a country that often operates under the veneer of a fraudulent connection to religion. Proverbs 14:31 reminds us that, 'Whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God.' The SCOTUS decision to overturn ROE not only puts those who inequities have caused to be perpetually, underprivileged such as poor women, Black women and other women of Color at risk but it also inherently shows contempt for the Creator," said Rev. Dr. Cassandra Gould, Senior Strategist, Faith Leadership Strategies, Faith in Action and Associate at Metropolitan A.M.E. Church in DC. "It is a moment in which people of faith have to wrestle with theologies that support oppression of any kind. It is a sad day for us but we have been here before and will continue to advocate for, stand with and protect the well being of those who continue to be saddled with legalized, judicially enforced oppression.

"Today is a difficult day for women and children in this country because of the Supreme Court's decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*. People are hurt, scared, and frankly, enraged," said The Rev. Kamilah Hall Sharp, Co-Pastor, The Gathering, A Womanist Church in Dallas and Clergy Organizing Board, Faith in Action. "Here in Texas, we have one of the country's highest Black mother mortality rates, no Medicaid expansion, and child care is hard to get even for people with the money. This decision is deadly. I, too, am enraged at the injustice, the lack of care for women and that most people who voted to take this right away will never have to carry an unwanted pregnancy to term in their bodies. As a follower of Jesus, I believe my rage aligns with his. Jesus was so enraged by injustice and the oppression of the people he flipped tables. We must harness our rage and organize and flip seats in state and federal legislatures so that evil does not get the final word."

###

*Faith in Action is the largest grassroots, faith-based organizing network in the United States. The nonpartisan organization works with 1,000 religious congregations in more than 200 cities and towns through its 46 local and state federations. For more information, visit [www.faithinaction.org](http://www.faithinaction.org).*



But the problems with Faith in Florida - Hillsborough don't just lie with the pro-abortion position of Faith in Action. As a member of Faith in Florida, the issue is actually far more direct. On [Faith in Florida's "Community" page](#), it identifies Hillsborough as one of its local locations.



It should be noted that Faith in Florida - Hillsborough actually shares the same mailing address as Faith in Florida in Orlando (which is the network center for all Faith in Florida members), while the physical address is a [Catholic Charities location](#). It should also be noted here that the "registered agent" for Faith in Florida Hillsborough is Rhonda Thomas, the executive director of Faith in Florida (see below for her statement on Roe v. Wade). When looking up [public records on Faith in Action - Hillsborough](#), we discovered the registered physical and mailing addresses here:

**FAITH IN FLORIDA HILLSBOROUGH, INC.**

FAITH IN FLORIDA HILLSBOROUGH, INC. has been set up 12/19/2017 in state FL. The current status of the business is Active. The FAITH IN FLORIDA HILLSBOROUGH, INC. principal address is 3204 San Diego Lane, Dover, FL, 33527. Meanwhile you can send your letters to 406 E. AMELIA ST., ORLANDO, FL, 32803. The company's registered agent is Thomas Rhonda 406 E. AMELIA ST., ORLANDO, FL, 32803. The company's management are Director, I, R - Golden James, Director, I, R - Rosenberg Jason, Director, I, R - Meningall Jennifer. The company annual reports filed on Annual reports – 6/29/2020.


When looking up the physical address, "3204 San Diego Lane, Dover, FL 33527," we find this:



And while the physical address of Faith in Florida - Hillsborough is the same as a Catholic Charities location, the mailing address is the same as the physical address of Faith in Florida, as identified [at the bottom of their website](#).

**FAITH**  
IN FLORIDA

English | Spanish | Haitian Creole | Issues



Address  
406 East Amelia Street  
Orlando, FL, 32803

Contact  
info@faithinflorida.org  
407-849-5031

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On [June 28](#), Faith in Florida joined the national Faith in Action in slamming the SCOTUS decision by issuing its own statement.





Faith in Florida  
@FaithFlorida



## Faith in Florida Leaders Stand With Women After SCOTUS Ruling



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Faith in Florida Leaders Stand With Women After SCOTUS Ruling | FIF in the N...  
ORLANDO- On Friday, the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, ending the right to legal abortions. Faith in Florida stands in solidarity with women maki...

12:50 PM · Jun 28, 2022 · Twitter Web App

In the full statement from [Faith in Florida](#) (FIF), Rhonda Thomas, FIF’s executive director, declared that “Overturning Roe v. Wade is unacceptable” as her organization on the whole stated:

“Faith in Florida stands in solidarity with women making the best decisions for their reproductive and maternal health.”

In the full statement, which included quotes from Nanci Palacios, Deputy Director for Faith in Florida and Dr. LaVon Bracy, Director of Democracy for Faith in Florida, the unanimous course of action is that Faith in Florida is committed to using local elections as a means of enshrining a “right” to abortion into law.

# ROE VS WADE

STATEMENT

## Faith in Florida Leaders Stand With Women After SCOTUS Ruling

**ORLANDO-** On Friday, the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, ending the right to legal abortions. Faith in Florida stands in solidarity with women making the best decisions for their reproductive and maternal health. “Overturning Roe v. Wade is unacceptable, creating significant, even life-threatening unforeseen problems moving forward. Women don’t need the government involved in their health care decisions at any level,” **said Executive Director of Faith in Florida, Rev. Rhonda Thomas.** “This ruling is an opportunity to mobilize and vote for those who care about everyday people and their freedom to make choices about their bodies and their futures.”

“As people of faith, we are called on to defend and protect the oppressed and disenfranchised. However, this decision is bigger than abortion. With the overturn of this ruling, the inequalities within the healthcare system will worsen,” **said Nanci Palacios, Deputy Director for Faith in Florida.** “This is the beginning of taking away people’s freedoms, and allowing this to happen leaves the door open for other constitutional rights to be at risk.”

Now that the states determine the rights to health care freedom, it is crucial for participation in local elections to increase.

“It is disappointing and has set women’s rights back for generations,” **said Dr. LaVon Bracy, Director of Democracy for Faith in Florida.** “So many women have experienced maternal health trauma and will now be tragically harmed by this decision. Unfortunately, this demonstrates the consequences of not voting, and it will allow others to make decisions for us. This August and November, let’s begin to change the landscape.” *Faith in Florida (FIF) is about people, power, and change. Through a network of congregations and community leaders in South, Central, and North Florida, we unite people of faith to act in a unified moral voice for racial, economic, environmental, and social justice. Faith in Florida is a federation of the Faith in Action national network.*

*FIF has over 800 congregations, representing over 35 counties and 160,000 families. Over the past year, the Faith and Florida Team spoke with over 249,000 working-class Voters of Color. As a result, during the 2020 election cycle, we produced a 60% voter turnout rate at the polls. Visit [www.faithinflorida.org](http://www.faithinflorida.org) for more information.*

In addition to this, Faith in Florida has publicly promoted syncretism, which is a heresy. In [April 11 of 2022](#), Faith in Florida posted an image saying "Holy Week" with the symbols of multiple non-Christian and even pagan religious sects, including Wiccans, Sikhs, Muslims, Baha’is, Hindus, Jews, and Buddhists.



[On Twitter](#), Faith in Florida provided a written explanation of their post, again strongly

indicating the heresy of syncretism.



Faith in Florida  
@FaithFlorida



♥ It is the first time in 30 years that Muslims, Jews, Christians, Sikhs, Baha'is, Hindus, Buddhists and Indigenous nations will celebrate Ramadan, Passover, Easter, Vaisakhi, Mahavir Jayanti, Theravada New Year and the Gathering of Nations.

[#faithinflorida](#) [#fif](#) [#holyweek](#)



**FAITH**  
IN FLORIDA

BUILDING A BELOVED  
**COMMUNITY**



8:05 PM · Apr 11, 2022 · LaterMedia

## **Conclusion**

Faith in Florida - Hillsborough is a member of Faith in Action and Faith in Florida, both of which have openly professed their intention to fight for abortion as a "right." Additionally, Faith in Florida is clearly promoting the heresy of syncretism. There can be no moral justification for the CCHD to provide any funding to this organization.