



An Organizing Institute

## **Gamaliel Foundation Vision Statement**

**The Gamaliel Foundation is a community of people living out our faith and values to collectively transform our society and bring about justice locally, nationally and globally. Gamaliel exists to form organizations that empower ordinary people to effectively participate in the political, environmental, social and economic decisions affecting their lives.**

Religion has often played a mixed role in our society. Religion has been used to foster the evils of racism, poverty, violence, and intolerance as a powerful force to divide people with fear and hatred of one another. Still, the deepest values of our faith must unite all people through hope, acceptance and a deep desire for justice.

**We claim the value of unrelenting hope over numbing fear.  
We hold that all people are part of a sacred community,  
intended by God to realize their own dignity, worth, power and voice.**

A great disparity of wealth and poverty exists in the world today. The “haves” in our global society enjoy enormous advantages and the capacity to continuously protect and expand their interests, while the “have-nots” are often powerless and victimized. We live in a society where geographic place confers privilege through spatial racism, classism and segregation of opportunity. Too often environmental distress occurs in communities of the least represented. The resources of water, land, air, oil, and minerals in the world are unevenly distributed and inadequately conserved.

**We defy raw greed for the benefit of few and  
We claim the value of sustaining abundance for all.**

We live in a world where famine, disease and genocide destroy generations of people, and yet very few are outraged. Due to mobility, consumerism, nationalism, militarism, television, electronic gadgetry, racism, sexism, time constraints, and fear, people are less and less able to build enduring, strong and meaningful relationships with one another. Throughout the world there are millions of undocumented residents with little chance of being integrated into the political and legal structure of our communities.

**We claim the value of a sacred community over isolating individualism.  
We further claim that each person has the right and responsibility to  
make the sacred community a reality.**

The concentration of money on political decisions corrupts democratic processes, excluding the vast majority of people from having any meaningful input into political decisions.

**We affirm equal opportunity for all and abhor all forms  
of injustice flowing from racism, poverty, and intolerance.**

**Therefore, Gamaliel has structured itself to effect the systemic changes necessary to advance the values we have claimed. People with faith in a good and just God and people who share these values will organize through Gamaliel to bring about shared abundance, sacred community, unrelenting hope, equal opportunity and justice within our communities and throughout the world.**