



A Historical Timeline

May 2024

Leading up to Dobbs Decision overturning Roe v. Wade, on June 24, 2022, some congregations were already conducting abortion-related Listening Circles, sermons, and book groups on *Trust Women*, by Rev. Rebecca Todd Peters.

Fall of 2022 – A few NC Triangle area congregational leaders started meeting to discuss forming a coalition.

Fall of 2022 – SACReD training held at the Church of Reconciliation. Over 60 people attended from congregations in the Triangle area.

May 2023 – First meeting of the Triangle Interfaith Reproductive Justice Coalition, now Interfaith Voices for Reproductive Freedom (IVRF), was held at the Community Church of Chapel Hill, Unitarian Universalist (UU). The Coalition met monthly up to Jan. 2024. After that date, they broke into five working committees. It began alternating monthly meetings between the full coalition (even-numbered months) and the committees (odd-numbered months).

June 2023 – Showing of the PlanC Movie at the Lumina Theater, followed by a panel discussion. The panel consisted of Rev. Toddie Peters, Mathew Zarden MD, Rev. Jennifer Copeland, and moderated by Melva Fager Okun.

November 2023 – The Church of Reconciliation sponsored and conducted a two-day symposium on a *Faith-based Look at a Post Roe Future*.

January 22, 2024 – The Coalition organized over 100 supporters to attend a rally and Media Conference in Raleigh. Ten religious leaders from various denominations spoke and Melva Fager Okun presented on behalf of the Coalition. The Community Church of Chapel Hill, UU, sponsored a bus to Raleigh for participants.

March 26, 2024 – A rally was held at the Federal Courthouse in Raleigh on the day SCOTUS was hearing oral arguments about access to Mifepristone and the FDA authority over the medication.

April 2024 – Name changed to Interfaith Voices for Reproductive Freedom

May 2024 – Launch of the Coalition Voter Mobilization began.

Organizational Enhancements (on-going) - The Coalition formed a Steering Committee and developed a charter for it. The Coalition broke into five committees: Membership & Outreach, Education, Policy Watch, Communication, and Mobilization & Advocacy. Each Committee has a lead person and a representative on the Steering Committee.

Outreach (on-going) – Eleven congregations have joined IVRF. Meetings and making contact with numerous congregations in the Triangle area are being conducted. We have reached out to, and will continue to do so, to the more than 50 congregations in the Triangle area.

Education (on-going) – Several of the congregations have invited ministers and rabbis to conduct a worship service on abortion access, such as the Reproductive Shabbat held at Kehillah Synagogue. Several congregations have conducted Listening Circles, and book groups on *Trust Women*. Judea Reform had a movie showing in Durham of PlanC. The Coalition/IVRF has promoted community events, such as those held by ACLU, PPSA, and Now.

Support Work (on-going) – IVRF congregations have taken turns monthly preparing Thank You Baskets for PPSA Clinic staff; and support bags for patients post abortions.

Supportive Abortion Healthcare Yard Signs – Over 50 yard signs have been distributed to community members with messages such as, “My religion does not support abortion bans.”

Digital Communication (on-going) – IVRF has developed a website (ivrf-nc.org), social media, Google work space, and emails for its committees and organization. IVRF is developing media relations and contacts with organizations that are sharing our events on their blogs.