

CONNIE RYAN

PO Box 41086, Des Moines, IA 50311 | connie@interfaithallianceiowa.org | 515.279.8715

ACCOMPLISHMENTS & ABILITIES

Extensive career and lifelong dedication to addressing issues of social justice by educating and advocating for change in society.

A leading progressive voice in Iowa on religious freedom, civil rights, and civility, as demonstrated by innumerable guest columns in Iowa's largest news outlets and as the organizational spokesperson with the media and at public events.

Exceptional ability to engage and lead partner organizations, colleagues, and volunteers to achieve collaborative goals.

An effective and trusted voice at the Iowa statehouse lobbying to protect religious freedom and the separation of religion and government, strengthening the civil rights of Iowans, ensuring quality public education for all children in Iowa, and guaranteeing Iowa's courts remain free from the corruption of money and politics.

Strong organizing skills, focus, and passion to build relationships and empower Iowans as well as build coalitions to garner strength and successfully create change.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR INTERFAITH ALLIANCE OF IOWA, DES MOINES

2002 TO PRESENT

Leads the statewide Interfaith Alliance of Iowa in educating, advocating, and building coalitions for social change. Provides a strong, effective, progressive voice in Iowa's public square to protect faith and freedom. Challenges extremism and engages progressive people of faith and people of no faith to actively participate in the public debate on religious freedom, civil rights, equality, public education, and other issues of social justice. Serves as the organization's lobbyist to effectively shape public policy during Iowa's legislative session.

PRESIDENT JUSTICE NOT POLITICS, DES MOINES

2010 TO PRESENT

Leading voice in establishing the coalition and its efforts to protect Iowa's fair and impartial courts against attacks.

DIRECTOR OF FAMILY MINISTRIES FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, DES MOINES

1996 TO 2006

Created and implemented ministry programs for children, youth, and families.

SOCIAL WORKER PRIVATE LAW OFFICE, DES MOINES

1996 TO 2000

Advocated with service providers and court officials on behalf of children and youth involved with the juvenile court system.

SOCIAL WORKER IOWA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, DES MOINES

1989 TO 1993

Provided advocacy and case management services for persons with developmental disabilities while coordinating necessary services.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

CO-FOUNDER AND BOARD MEMBER, Justice Not Politics, 2010 to present;
President, 2010 to present

BOARD MEMBER, Friends of Iowa Legal Aid, 2016 to present

CO-FOUNDER AND BOARD MEMBER, Iowa Immigration Education Coalition, 2008 to 2013
Chairperson, 2009 to 2010

BOARD MEMBER, Iowa Citizen Action Network, 2006 to 2011
Chairperson, 2011

BOARD MEMBER, Iowa Safe Schools, 2005 to 2010
Treasurer, 2009 to 2010

BOARD MEMBER, One Iowa, 2007 to 2015

PRESIDENT ELECT, First Christian Church (Des Moines), 2019

ELDER, First Christian Church (Des Moines), 1999 to present

YOUTH LEADER, First Christian Church (Des Moines), 1995 to 2017

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK, 2002

DRAKE UNIVERSITY

BACHELOR OF ARTS, 1987