



The
INTERFAITH ALLIANCE
OF ROCHESTER
PROTECTING FAITH AND FREEDOM

P.O. Box 25245, Rochester NY 14625
Secretary: H. Robert Herman, 585-385-1155
Web Site: tia-roch.org

Statement in Support of Specific Goals of the Occupy Movement, the Band of Rebels, and Move to Amend

The Interfaith Alliance of Rochester (TIAR) shares a number of the concerns being raised by three new grassroots movements in Rochester (and many other places): the Occupy Movement, the Band of Rebels, and Move to Amend. We commend all three groups for focusing public conversation on corporations having too much influence over governmental policies that are not in the interests of the people and are increasing the income disparity between the top very rich 1% and the other 99%, especially the millions of unemployed and poor Americans among them.

In opposition to the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in "Citizens United," we agree particularly with two principles set forth by both the Occupy movement and the Move to Amend group, that:

1. Money invested in the interests of corporations is not speech in the same sense that the free speech of human persons is protected by the First Amendment.
2. Human beings, not corporations, are persons entitled to civil rights, although corporations may have specific rights to conduct business as defined by state or federal law.

As a faith-based organization, TIAR strives to educate and advocate about economic justice, a sustainable environment, health care for everyone, just immigration reform, an end to perpetual war, and an inclusive democratic process in which all citizens participate with equal voices. This democratic process is in jeopardy from the power of wealthy individuals and organizations to influence the legislative, judicial, and executive branches of our government.

On these issues we strongly support the efforts of these three movements locally and nationally.

People of Faith Working Together for Justice in Public Policy and Respect for the First Amendment