

THE INTERFAITH ALLIANCE OF ROCHESTER
+People of Faith Working Together For Justice in Public Policy+
Board Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2007

PRESENT: Dale Bird, Paul Brayer, Sally Chamberlin, Neil Jaschik, Gratia L'Esperance, Isabel Morrison, Marie Parsons, Gil Strother, C. Denise Yarbrough

1. Opening Reflection: C. Appleton was unable to attend.

2. Minutes and Agenda: The meeting was called to order at 4:10. Paul Brayer moved that the minutes of the previous meeting be approved. Isabel Morrison seconded the motion, which was passed. There were no additions to the agenda.

3. Membership: Dayle Bird presented a list of members of the national Interfaith Alliance who live in this area. Each board member is asked to check for people whom they know and contact them about joining the local chapter. A new letter is being prepared to which follow-up calls are suggested. Packets of membership materials are available at meetings. We need to follow up on the interest areas indicated on membership forms. We need to contact people in the areas of Peace and Non Violence as well as Health.

4. Nominating: The committee will meet tomorrow at the home of Gail Mott. Representatives of some denominations are being sought: Lutheran, UCC, Quaker, Orthodox Christian and Mennonite, to name a few. Marie Parsons and her husband will be moving to Florida. She will have time to work with a possible incoming treasurer.

5. Immigration Forum: This will be held on March 12, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at the Dugan Center in St. Mary's Church. Sister Gaye Moorehead, Sister Janet Korn, and Wally Ruehl will participate. Publicity is important. The League of Women Voters is starting a three-year study of immigration. They might participate in future programs.

6. Poverty:

§ DVD Presentation: BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED TO MAKE AN ISSUE OF FINDING PLACES FOR ED LEMON TO PRESENT HIS POVERTY PROGRAM. We need to compile a comprehensive list of what people can do about poverty to hand out at presentations. P. Brayer will work on this list.

§ Reality Tour: This will be held on April 21. The cost is \$10; the time required about three hours.

§ GRCC meetings with Department of Human Services regarding problems: For example, Sr. Gratia announced that there has been no increase in welfare benefits since 1990. She has been in touch with Jon Greenbaum of Metro Justice in regard to this.

§ Burial Coalition: There is a proposal by the County to contract with a non

profit agency and fund a person to be in charge. As some people will choose to be cremated there will be money available in addition to what has been donated.

§ Hud Housing: Funds for this have been cut in the Federal budget. Letters to our Senators are needed.

§ Other: Ann Mason of the Monroe County Re-Entry Task Force: Hopes that some board members can meet with her again in regard to housing for ex-offenders. She's still looking for a place for them.

7. Economic Justice:

§ Hotel Workers: Peter Peters was unable to attend but reported that he is waiting for the second meeting with the manager of the Crown Plaza.

§ Let Justice Roll: Neil Jaschik reported that there are ten possible campaigns in which Let Justice Roll can become involved.

8. Local, State, National

§ Prayer at Greece Town Board: Since Congress opens with prayer, the ACLU says there is no legal case against them. A letter to the editor on behalf of TIAR was discussed. Marie Parsons and Milt Lederman will collaborate, not making a point of Greece, and including positive suggestions.

§ Sally Brown was not able to attend the meeting to speak about voting machines.

§ Meet Your Legislator Forums: Dick Meyers says there is not a lot of energy in GRCC for 2007 forums; they require much work.

9. Peace / Non-Violence: Community Forums on Violence: Sr. Gratia has attended two of these forums and is working on the Justice Committee of the Sisters of Mercy. The possibility of a summer Peace Camp has been discussed. This would offer a chance to learn non-violent communication. Interest would be sought in the wider community so that this could be an interfaith program.

10. Other:

§ David Gordon Webster Memorial Fund: It was decided that TIAR, as an organization, would not contribute. Those members who wish to contribute as individuals may send their donations to: David Gordon Webster Memorial Fund in care of the Downtown Presbyterian Church.

§ Center for Interfaith Studies and Dialogue: Will be holding its annual dinner on March 8, 5:30PM, at Nazareth College. TIAR will have a table. If you wish to attend, please send a check for \$25 to: Marie Parsons, 56-2 Portland Parkway, Rochester, NY 14621.