

THE INTERFAITH ALLIANCE OF ROCHESTER
+People of Faith Working Together For Justice in Public Policy+

Board Meeting Minutes
May 15,2008

Attending: D.Bird, P.Brayer, S.Chamberlin, G.L'Esperance, E.Herman, R.Herman, N.Jaschik, E.Johnson, M.Lederman, D.McNitt, H.Parreno, W.Spilly, and M.Wienk. Member Guests- Marie Parsons.

- 1. Opening Reflection-** Read by E.Johnson and W.Spilly.
- 2. Minutes-** The minutes of the 4/17/08 meeting failed to list W.Spilly as attending. They are amended to reflect same. Motion by W.Spilly; seconded by H.Parreno to approve the April 17, 2008 Board minutes as corrected. Approved unanimously except that S.Chamberlin abstained.
- 3. Rochester Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice (CLUE)-** Event at First Unitarian Church, 220 Winton Rd. Rochester, NY at noon May 30, 2008 "When democracy is not democratic" -Speaker, Congresswoman Louis Slaughter, Richard Schubert former president of Bethlehem Steel, and Richard Bensinger former Organizing Director of the National AFL-CIO.
- 4. Burial Committee-** H.Parreno: No significant changes. The House of Mercy has become the interim intervener. Shirl Clark is the current screener for the county.
- 5. Rochester Voters Alliance-** P.Brayer: There is a great need for volunteers. The Center for Disability Rights is acting as the holder of the funds for this project.
- 6. Board Meeting for July and August-** The decision as to whether there will be Board meetings in July and August and the dates for the future Executive Committee will be made and the information will be disseminated.
- 7. Public Defender Group-** G.L'Esperance has met with Minister Raymond Scott. He did not appear to oppose supporting a statewide Public Defender process.
- 8. CBGNY** -includes Clean Money, Clean Elections and Public Financing of Campaigns- N.Jaschik will become the vice-president of that organization.
- 9. Peace and nonviolence-** M.Wienk and H.Parreno: They are working on a

letter to be sent to candidates.

10. Alternatives for Violence- M.Hickey: Funds are needed for the central NY in prison programs to teach alternatives to violence. Motion by W.Spilly; seconded by E. Herman to contribute \$ 400. Approved unanimously.

11. National TIA Conference- G.L'Esperance reported as our TIAR attendee at this Washington, DC event. The 3 national priorities are: 1. Opposition to the faith based initiative concept. 2. Hate crime legislation. 3. Sound science (no creationism in science classes). TIA has adopted a new logo to replace the "flame." The new logo was shown. It is a multi colored circle to represent the inclusion of many. G.L'Esperance said she would disseminate a more detailed report sometime in the future. The word "The" may have been removed from (The) Interfaith Alliance name.

12. Annual Meeting- R.Herman- A media campaign has been created with the aid of M.Lederman and will be instituted.

13. Contribution in appreciation to Covenant United Methodist Church- Motion by E.Herman; seconded by P.Brayer to contribute \$ 100 to Covenant United Methodist Church in appreciation of providing TIAR with meeting space for our board.

14. Contribution in appreciation of the volunteer web site services- Todd Goddard has created and maintained the TIAR web site. Motion by E.Herman; seconded M.Wienk to contribute \$ 100 to the charity of Todd Goddard's choice.

The next meeting will be our Annual Meeting Sunday, June 8, 2008 at 3 PM at the Shults Center at Nazareth College, 4245 East Avenue, Rochester, NY 14618. The speaker will be our former President, Paul Womack, Colonel US Armyretired, an army chaplain who served in both Iraq wars. His topic: Proud To Have Served In "Caesar's Army"