

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

**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**September 21 ,2006**

**Attending:** P.Brayer, S.Brown, S.Chamberlin. B.J.Gottorff, P.Hammer, E.Herman, R.Herman, N.Jaschik, E.Johnson, T.LeBeau, E.Lemon, G.L'Esperance, I.Morrison, G.Mott, A.Nahas, M.Parsons, P.Peters, F.Razvi, G.Strother, W.Spilly, and D.Yarbrough.  
Guest- John Keevert of Interfaith Impact

**1. Opening Reflection-** by M.Parsons.

**2. Minutes-** No motion was made to approve the minutes of the 6/4/06 (annual meeting) or of the 5/18/06 meeting.

**3. Treasurer's Report-** A written report covering the period 6/4/06 through 9/20/06 was distributed by M.Parsons, Treasurer.

**4. Interfaith Impact-** John Keevert presented that Interfaith Impact is a coalition of Protestants, Unitarian-Universalists and Reform Jews to provide a "progressive religious voice. It is a statewide organization with local affiliates. They are recruiting for a local 21 person planning committee as well as a 21 person state board. They are particularly seeking progressive Christians. The local contact person is Rev. Richard Gilbert- phone-244-7403; e-mail < rsgilbert @uuma.org >.

**5. Poverty Task Force-** E. Lemon reported. The task force has made Poverty DVD/power point presentations to the Bahai community and will be presenting to the Men's group at AME Zion Church and the Presbyterian Church in Pittsford (a second presentation there). A discussion ensued about how to get the word out about the availability of the DVD/Power point programs and a determination to seek more opportunities for presentations. G.Williams has been working on a proposal for the Rochester Children's Zone.

**6. Business Fairness Hearing-** G.L'Esperance and H.Pareno attended.

**7. Burial Issues-** G.L'Esperance reported that work on this project continues As a result of a cut ( in effect since 3/1/06 ) of the burial allowance for those indigent from \$1850 to \$1250 some have been forced to employ cremation (against their beliefs) as opposed to burial. **8. Hotel Workers Campaign to Organize-** P.Peters reported. A group of clergy is supporting this effort. A letter will be going to leaders in the faith

communities. UNITE is developing a DVD. The problems include working conditions in addition to wages and hours. The campaign is supported by Mayor Duffy. A number of conventions refuse to come to Rochester because of the nonunion hotels.

**9. Let Justice Roll**– N.Jaschik reported (E.Johnson and E.Lemon had attended the meeting) TIAR needed to designate our representative to the Let Justice Roll steering committee. E.Johnson recommended N.Jaschik who accepted and was appointed. P.Peters will focus on the hotel workers.

**10. Petition Sheets for First Freedom**– The sheets were made available.

**11. Theocracy Watch (Joan Bokaer)**– R, Herman reported. No change. He recommended we regularly check out the web site <[theocracywatch.org](http://theocracywatch.org)>.

**12. Fair Campaign Pledge**– S.Brown reported. The process is underway and the County Office Building ceremony took place.

**13. Immigration**– G.L'Esperance reported. The Downtown Community Forum program is delayed until after 1/1/07 as a result of Kera Neylon's illness. Sr. Gay Moorhead is interested in this project.

**14. Forgiveness Project**– See < [www.theforegivenessproject.com](http://www.theforegivenessproject.com) <<http://www.theforegivenessproject.com>> >

**15. Membership**– No report. D.Bird not present. She requested that we each take 2 copies of the brochure and give 1 to a friend to encourage new members.

**16. Health Issues**– Interfaith Healthcare Coalition– E.Johnson and M.Mich are on it. Peter Mott is also involved.

**17. Nominating Committee**– G.Mott was appointed as chair. R.Herman agreed to serve on the committee. Addition committee members will be named.

**The next meeting will be Thursday, October 19, 2006 at 4 PM at Covenant United Methodist Church, Culver at Parsells).**