

THE INTERFAITH ALLIANCE OF ROCHESTER

+People of Faith Working Together For Justice in Public Policy+

Board Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2007

Attending: D.Bird, P.Brayer, S.Chamberlin, G.L'Esperance, P.Hammer, R.Herman, N.Jaschik, E.Johnson, M.Lederman, E.Lemon, I.Morrison, G.Mott, A.Nahas, H.Parreno, P.Peters, F.Razvi, W.Spilly, G.Strother, and M.Wienk. Guest- Member Guests- John Landro, Kay Merrifield and Marie Parsons.

1. Opening Reflection- by M.Lederman.

2. Human Rights Day Event- to take place 12/10/07 at DUPC with 5:15 PM pot luck supper and 7:00 PM panel discussion; Motion to cosponsor, including a \$ 25 contribution, by G.Mott; seconded by M.Lederman- Approved unanimously.

3. Clergy and Laity United (CLUE)- Motion by P.Peters, seconded by H.Parreno to support the hotel workers by supporting the boycott of the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Passed unanimously.

4. Rochester Voter Alliance- G.L'Esperance reported that TIA advised that it was sending a check to us for \$ 1000 to support this program. P.Brayer reported that the next meeting for this project was scheduled for 11/20/07 at 4 PM at 490 State St. and that the County Board of Elections was being very helpful with information.

5. Membership Committee- D.Bird reported that this committee will meet next at 8:30 AM on 11/16/07 at the South Wedge Diner.

6. Nominating Committee- G.Mott reported that this committee will meet on 1/7/08 at noon at her home.

7. Statement of Principles Concerning Peace as a TIAR Priority for 2008- H.Parreno and M.Wienk drafted the proposal, a copy of which was circulated by e-mail to all board members prior to this meeting. A discussion took place out of which was expressed a desire to add 2 paragraphs, one to term the Iraq war as "unjust" and one to express support for the troops. Motion by A.Nahas; seconded by F.Razvi to adopt the resolution as amended was approved by a vote of 18 to 1. (A copy of the Amended Statement will be found attached to these minutes.)

8. Immigration- H.Parreno reported. She recommended the use of the term "undocumented" rather than "illegal" when referring to the workers. We shall be supporting various programs being presented in the community. Ideas for 2008 include a 1/10/08 program by the League of Women Voters.

The next Board meeting will be Thursday, December 20, 2007 at 4 PM at Covenant United Methodist Church, (Culver at Parsells).

Statement of Principles Concerning Peace as a TIAR Priority Issue for 2008
As Adopted by TIAR Board, November 15, 2007

Whereas the human costs of the Iraq War continue to grow each day—in numbers of Iraqi civilians killed, wounded, and made refugees, and the U.S. dead, physically maimed, and psychologically wounded—including over a hundred veterans returning to Rochester with post traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD); and

Whereas the Iraq War is especially unjust because of the defective arguments offered to justify it and the absence of any direct threat to the United States from Iraq, and

Whereas nothing in this resolution should be construed as in any way denying the courage of United States military personnel and the honor due to them, and

Whereas the Iraq War is an overarching issue because it interconnects with and impacts many other issues The Interfaith Alliance of Rochester (TIAR) has been working on, especially those related to poverty—as exorbitant funds for war deplete already parsimonious funding of human services locally; and

Whereas the war in Iraq may escalate in the next few months into a war with Iran, thereby exacerbating the depletion of funds for local human needs, and

Whereas the insidious culture of violence, pervades our psyches and infests our city's streets where people use guns to settle disputes, therefore, be it

Resolved, That The Interfaith Alliance of Rochester (TIAR) endorse *The Declaration of Peace* (2006), joining dozens of other peace and justice organizations—both faith-based and secular—to seek an end to the War in Iraq and no War with Iran by encouraging our government to take the following steps:

Withdrawal of U.S. troops and all coalition forces

Closure of U.S. bases in Iraq

Support for an Iraqi-led peace process and an international peacekeeping presence

Return of Iraqi control over its oil resources and the political and economic life of the nation

Reparations and reconstruction to address the destruction caused by the U.S. war?

Increased support for U.S. veterans of the Iraq War, and

No so-called “preventive” war against Iran or any other nation.?