

Who is the Network of Religious Communities?

We are a network of the denominations, congregations and religious organizations located in our region. We are Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian (Orthodox, Protestant, Roman Catholic) Hindu, Jew, Muslim Sikh and Unitarian.

What do we do?

We facilitate communication, cooperation and collaboration among our members and between our members and the wider community. We foster understanding and respect. We work together for justice, peace and the common good of our region and its people.

ORGANIZATIONS ON BOARD OF GOVERNORS 2006 DENOMINATIONS/FAITH COORDINATING BODIES

Baha'i Community
Buffalo District United Methodist Church
Buffalo, Pittsburgh Diocese Polish National Catholic
Buffalo, Rochester District AME Zion Church
Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints
Diocese of Buffalo Roman Catholic Church
Episcopal Diocese Western New York
Episcopal District AME Church
Hindu Cultural Center and Temple
Islamic Society of the Niagara Frontier
Jewish Federation of Greater Buffalo
Mennonite Church
Presbytery of Western New York
Religious Society of Friends
Sikh Society of Niagara Frontier
Unitarian Universalist Congregations
Unity Church of Practical Christianity
Upstate NY Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church
Western NY Churches in Covenant: Disciples/UCC

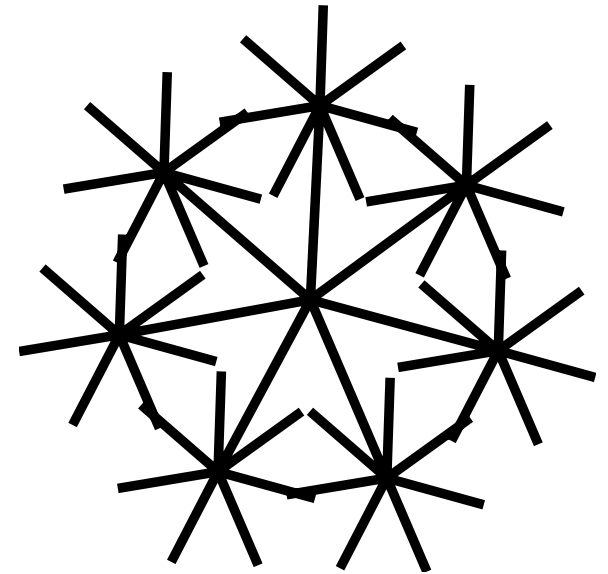
RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS:

African Methodist Ministers Alliance
American Jewish Committee
Bible Society of Western New York.
Buffalo Board of Rabbis
Buffalo Zen Dharma Community
Church Women United
Council of Orthodox Christian Churches
Islamic Cultural Association of WNY
Lockport Clergy Association
Muslim Public Affairs Council W.N.Y.
South Buffalo Ecumenical Association
Sisters of Mercy
Sisters of St. Francis (Stella Niagara)
Youngstown/Lewiston Clergy Association

CONGREGATIONS ELECTED ANNUALLY

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church
Calvary Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
Ephesus Ministries
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Greater Refuge Temple
Masjid Nu'Man
New Hope Baptist Church
Pilgrim St. Luke United Church of Christ
Salem United Church of Christ, Tonawanda.NY
St Luke African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
St Philips Episcopal Church
Temple Beth AM
Temple Shaarey Zedek
True Bethel Baptist Church
Trinity United Methodist Church, Grand Island
Westminster Presbyterian Church

Network of Religious Communities



**1272 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14209
(716) 882-4793**

Fax (716) 882-3797

**nrc@religiousnet.org
www.ReligiousNet.Org**

The Network of Religious Communities

is an organization of 18 denominations/faith coordinating bodies, 14 religious organizations and over 200 congregations located in Western New York and the Niagara Peninsula of Southern Ontario, Canada.

The purposes of the Network are to:

- facilitate communication and increase understanding among the members and between the members and the wider community*
- foster cooperation within and between the faith communities to which the members belong*
- facilitate collaboration in areas of common concern and in response to needs in the wider community*
- to promote justice, peace and the common good (as expressed in the faith traditions of the members) in Western New York and the Niagara Peninsula of Ontario*

The Network is not a religious community unto itself, rather a forum providing opportunities for cooperative ventures, the strengthening of our religious communities, and the betterment of the community as a whole. Religious communities are encouraged to develop links with similar faith communities for cooperative programming, the sharing of resources and mutual support.

The core beliefs and integrity of all religious communities are respected in all policy statements issued and actions taken in the name of the Network. Participants in the Network of Religious Communities are never expected to compromise their belief, rather to dialogue with persons from other faith communities from a perspective of humility and mutual respect.

The Network of Religious Communities is organized under a General Assembly and a Board of Governors, elected by the General Assembly. All members of the Network are members of the General Assembly and are entitled to vote annually for the congregations and religious organizations represented on the board.

Membership in the Network is open to congregations, denominations and religious organizations in Western New York and the Niagara Peninsula of Southern Ontario who subscribe to the purposes of the Network of Religious Communities and contribute toward its financial support.

Programs of the Network of Religious Communities

Church Women United: Enlisting church women in a movement across denominational lines; engaging in celebrations, service and study.

Food For All: Finding and implementing solutions to the problem of hunger in Western New York through education, outreach and advocacy.

Food Pantry: Our emergency food pantry provided emergency food for over 14,000 hungry persons during 2004.

Interfaith Coalition on Energy: Assisting congregations and religious organizations to reduce the cost of their energy consumption.

Interfaith Women: Celebrating the diversity of faith traditions. Committed to dialogue and collaboration, fostering mutual understanding.

Radio/TV Ministry: Currently the Network produces, with local congregational talent, three regular TV and one radio program which are Broadcast over Buffalo area stations and cable systems.

Region-wide Interreligious Conversation: The Region-wide interreligious conversation engages area congregations in dialogue across the geographic, racial and religious barriers that divide us.

Scout Chaplains: Providing chaplains for Boy Scout and Cub Scout camping programs and events.

Riefler Enablement Fund: Providing annual grants to congregations and ecumenical/interreligious organizations attempting creative community ministries.

Ecumenical-Interreligious Activities

The Annual Appreciation Dinner: An annual dinner at which "community saints" nominated by their congregations are honored for their service to their congregation and/or community.

Annual Yom Hashoah Commemoration Service: Interfaith Service in Remembrance of the Holocaust.

Common Ground discovering ways for persons who are divided over moral and social policy issues to join hands across the divide of their differences to work in common concern.

Festivals of Faith: A community-wide program at which workshop on many different religious traditions are offered to the general public.

Interfaith /Intercultural Thanksgiving Service: An Annual Thanksgiving service held the Tuesday before Thanksgiving each year.

New Religious Leaders Luncheon: Introducing new religious leaders to our region, the religious community and essential resources.

Special educational Programs: "Building Community Together: Muslims, Jews and Christians in historical Spain and lessons for today" Dec 2004.

OFFICERS AND STAFF OF NETWORK

Officers:

Co-Presidents, Ms. Marlene Glickman
Rev. Frances Manly
Vice President, Dr. Vijay Chakravarthy
Vice President, Deacon James Anderson
Secretary, Rev. Mary Masters
Treasurer, Ms. Cindy Cumming
Immediate Past President: Imam Fajri Ansari

Staff:

Co-Executive Directors:

The Rev. Dr. G. Stanford Bratton D.Min., COO
The Rev. Francis X. Mazur

Other staff:

Hunger Public Policy Coordinator, Bruce Davidson
Church Women United Coordinator, Sally Giordano
Financial Assistant, Bonnie Jehle
Nutrition Outreach Coordinator, Kelly Kowalski

And our many faithful volunteers