

Becoming who we are



Faith In Action
Network
GRCC

Annual report of the
Greater Rochester Community of Churches,
now doing business as the
Faith In Action Network in Rochester, NY

January 24, 2011

Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse
150 French Road
Rochester, NY 14613

**Faith in Action Network—GRCC
Ministry Fair and Circle Conversations**

Date: January 24, 2011

Place: St. Joseph Motherhouse, 150 French Road, Rochester, NY 14618

Time: 4:00 – 7:00 pm

Schedule

4:00	Welcome, Prayer, Annual Report & Keynote (optional)
4:00- 7:00	Ministry Fair—visit exhibit tables (<i>see map</i>)
4:45- 5:30	First Flight of Circle Conversations
5:45- 6:30	Second Flight of Circle Conversations
6:45- 7:00	Written evaluations

The Assembly and Fair has three components:

1. a brief annual meeting and keynote address
2. exhibitors tables
3. circle conversations of selected social ministry topics (two 45 minute sessions)
The Fair and Circle Conversations are parallel tracks. Attendees will decide how to spend their time.

Ministry Exhibit tables set up in the foyer and hallway for participants to learn about a variety of social ministries and for exhibitors to network among themselves.

Table of Contents:

Page 2 – Contents & Summary	
Page 3 – Narrative of “Becoming Faith In Action”	Rev. Gordon Webster
Page 4 – Message from Executive Director	Marie E. Gibson
Page 5 – Report from the President	Dr. Marvin Mich
Page 6 – Nominations Report from VP of Operations	Robert Crystal
Page 7 – Report from Interfaith Representative	Rev. Dr. Denise Yarbrough
Page 8 – Miscellaneous Reports	Sr. Beth LeValley
Page 9 – Our donors	
Page 10 – Contributing Denominations & Congregations	
Page 11 – Finance and Yearend Reports, Treasurer	Kenneth Anderson



Evolving into the *Faith In Action Network* . . .

**We, as ecumenical Christians, are newly naming
who we have become over the past twenty years, 1991 to 2011:**

For over ninety years our Christian and Church cooperation in Greater Rochester had progressively different names :

- Fostering cooperation : 1919 -1961
"Federation of Churches of Rochester"
- Recognizing a common calling : 1961 - 1970
"Rochester Area Council of Churches"
- Towards engagement in common ministries : 1970 - 1991
"Genesee Ecumenical Ministries"
- Growing toward community : 1991 - 2010
"Greater Rochester Community of Churches"

Today we are looking toward the future. Already in our annual meetings (January) and our annual celebration dinners (June), we have recognized that what draws us together is Faith in Action.

Let us consider what God is calling us today to do :

- Engaging diversity as Christian community : 2011 - Future
"Faith in Action Network : Toward a World of Compassion and Justice"

As the "Faith in Action Network" and in partnerships both multigenerational and inter-communal, we as ecumenical Christians can respond to the questions/issues of our times :

Shall we create new energy in our region for a world of compassion and justice, and become:

- a habitat for humanity
- a beloved community
- an inner city and rural areas of literate children
- advocates for financial literacy for youth and adults with financial access
- a hospitable and welcoming county and city for new African and Asian refugees
- a community ethically enriched by the legacies of Frederick Douglass, Susan B. Anthony, Walter Rauschenbusch, Helen Barrett Montgomery, Howard Thurman, and Martin Luther King, Jr.
- a nationally recognized community alive with interfaith dialogues and networking

If we begin **"doing business as" Greater Rochester's "Faith in Action Network : Toward a World of Compassion and Justice,"** and recognize that God has already called us as ecumenical Christians into the work in these seven areas and more, then we can expand our partnerships and effective ministries.

Like the legacies of Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass in the 19th century, and Helen Barrett Montgomery and Howard Thurman in the 20th century, the "Faith in Action Network" would be:

- **Responsive** to our times -- the 21st century, post 9/11.
- **Progressive** in our calls to action, engaging professionals and seekers, young and mature, in the work of compassion and justice.
- **Inclusive** as a partner to our area's diverse communities of world faiths, ethnicities, justice organizations, and for joint worship and service opportunities.

In other words, ecumenical Christians would be offering their churches and religious organizations new forms of life and new ways to communicate what is an eternal message:

The Good News of God's compassion and justice is for all human beings.

Mission Statement: *Acting out of the core values of our Christian faith, Greater Rochester Community of Churches (GRCC) gathers people from diverse communities to build relationships and support initiatives based on spiritual and community values that advocate, model, and celebrate basic human rights. We work toward the day when every child, youth and adult feels safe, experiences support and care, and can discover ways to use their gifts for the good of the beloved community.*

Message From the Executive Director

“Becoming who we already are...”

Every so often someone will say to me, “What’s GRCC?” And I’ll say, “It’s the Greater Rochester Community of Churches.” And they will ask, “What does GRCC do?” And then there’s a pause. The pause isn’t because I don’t know what the agency does, but it’s because we do so much I don’t know where to start. There’s no easy “elevator speech!”

In the summer of 2010 GRCC was given a scholarship to sit down with marketing executives and members of the Ad Council of Rochester to strategically address “who we are” and “what we do.” As we presented OUR STORY to about six brilliant, young advertising agents, we were humbled in their presence as they gave kudos for the work the agency has been doing over many years and through its several manifestations.

“You ARE the Faith In Action Network!” said one man. The seed was planted!

We were encouraged to start slowly and move into this new way of being GRCC. However, a shot of enthusiasm was running through our veins and everyone on the board was excited about living into this new place and having a “doing business as” (DBA) the Faith In Action Network in Rochester. The corporation remains Greater Rochester Community of Churches.

Over the next several months the leadership in the agency will decide what changes will be made and what will remain the same. We hope to bring to our planning table new and younger minds. Will we get a new logo? Who wants to upgrade our website? Who can create and oversee a Twitter account? Who likes to design brochures, logos, newsletters? The opportunities are endless! And we want **YOU** to let us know your thoughts, your hopes, your ideas... because you **ARE** the Faith In Action Network!

I’m not going to duplicate the information in the reports of our executive team already printed in this booklet. I will, however, make sure it gets up on our web page for you to share with your church or group members. I encourage you to call me anytime you want to talk about Faith In Action. I’m most always available via phone or email.

I’d like to also acknowledge the passing of two very important people in the work of our agency; Ms. Alberta Moss and the Rev. Raymond Graves. Each in their own way contributed to the work of ecumenism and justice in the life of so many people. They have made their mark on the history of our region and most certainly in our hearts. As we move forward into each new day of this year, we remember them, and hold fast to their values and teachings.

Faithfully,
Marie Gibson

Reflections on 2010 and the Opportunities of 2011

Dr. Marvin L. Mich, GRCC Board President

As we look back on 2010 I am grateful for the work of our Executive Director, Marie Gibson, and the generosity of our Board and supporters.

A few highlights stand out for me as I look back on 2010:

- ❑ The “Way of the Cross” on Good Friday in the Beechwood neighborhood brought together 250 people who prayed for the victims of violence and for the ministers of hope in the neighborhood.
- ❑ The “Urban Ministry Forum” brought together denomination leaders for four meetings to discuss how we can work together to serve the needs of the community.
- ❑ The “Faith in Action” banquet in June was a powerful experience of God goodness in our midst as we celebrated the work of Thomas Warfield, Mrs. Jean Bartlett, RAIHN, and 40 other leaders.
- ❑ On July 1st GRCC announced the Rochester Community Supplemental Burial Fund and we began collecting funds to assist in the dignified burial of the poor of Monroe County.
- ❑ Our new DBA—“Doing Business As” was approved by the board

As we move into 2011 a number of opportunities are on the horizon:

- ❑ The “Faith in Action Network” initial event is the January 24th Ministry Fair which brings together many of the ministries of our member organizations. This is a chance to learn about dynamic ministries and relationship building. Exciting things can happen when we work together.
- ❑ In 2011 we will continue being a “Faith In Action Network” representing our member churches and organizations in the Rochester community through our social ministry efforts and worship opportunities.

We know that God is working through our efforts to announce the Good News of Jesus in our community. We carry out this ministry in an interfaith sensitivity and a commitment to serve all of God’s people.

2011 Annual meeting.

Board of Directors Nominating Committee report

From the Constitution:

Each member denomination may appoint up to two (2) representatives to sit on the Board. General term of office is two (2) years and appointed representatives may serve as long as the denomination requests.

1. The Board consists of:
 - A. 12-24 persons nominated and elected by the Annual Assembly who may hold (2) two year terms of alternating classes;

 - B. 2 persons designated by each member denomination; (It is interpreted that the total number of board members elected and appointed might be between 26 and 30 members)

Responsibilities and Term for GRCC Board Members At-Large:

Board members at-large are nominated by member congregations/organizations or other board members, are voted on by the Assembly, and serve two years (one term), unless completing another board member's partial term, or requesting to serve a limited term. Board members may serve unlimited terms.

Current membership at this meeting: =26

Class of 2010 (Term expires at Annual Meeting - January 24, 2011)

Rev. Deborah Grohman
Rev. Sally Hamlin
Rev. Alvin Parris, III
Alberta Moss (R.I.P.)
Tom McDade Clay

Stepped down mid-term:

Rosemary Rivera
Patrina Freeman (replaced by Marilyn Israel)
Jackie Sullivan

Completing terms as representative of the American Baptist Churches, Rochester
Genesee Region - Rev. Arlen Vernava

Accepting that seat - Rev. Richard Myers

Nominations from Committee:

For a 2 year term:

Rev. Deborah Grohman
Marilyn Israel
Tom McDade Clay

Nominations from the floor accepted at this time –

The Board is grateful for the continuing support of its leadership.

Report presented by: Robert Crystal, VP for Organization

Annual Report Interfaith Work 2010

This was a busy year for the various interfaith committees and commissions in Rochester. The GRCC founded and sponsored dialogue groups – Commission on Christian Muslim Relations (CCMR) and the Commission on Christian Jewish Relations (CCJR) continued their regular monthly meetings. CCMR also hosted two dialogue program series, one in the spring and one in the fall. Both of these series were well attended – 70-80 people per evening on each of three evenings per series – at the Islamic Center of Rochester. This year we were intentional to structure the dialogue evenings as round table discussions so that persons who attended had the opportunity to engage in interfaith dialogue rather than simply listen to others in dialogue.

CCJR continued its long standing Wednesday interfaith Bible Study, also drawing between 70-80 people per month. CCJR also moved to new depths in the quality of the interfaith dialogue at the monthly meetings, using a dialogue method advocated by Rabbi Brad Hirschfield, which enabled all participants to become comfortable with a high degree of vulnerability in the dialogues. The CCJR spent two monthly meetings in deep discussion of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict and found that the members had shared their understandings and concerns about that conflict with much more depth and authenticity than ever before.

The Interfaith Forum of Rochester went through a year of re-visioning and re-imagining how it would continue to function in the larger Rochester interfaith community. At its final Steering Committee meeting of 2010, the Steering Committee was reformed and reconstituted. The Rev. Denise Yarbrough ended her two year term as Chair and the Rev. Gordon Webster volunteered to take over as chair for the next two year term. Three immediate initiatives were planned for 2011: (1) a religious scholar lecture series on third Thursdays of the month from January through April; (2) a reconvening of the executives of the various constituent members of the IFF for quarterly dialogue at that executive level; and (3) a concerted effort to reach out to and recruit new interfaith leaders in the age range of the 30s and 40s. In addition Denise Yarbrough agreed to work with some students at Nazareth College to design a Rochester Interfaith Network website to be a central information source for everything interfaith in Rochester.

In April 2010, the Center for Interfaith Studies and Dialogue held a very successful Interfaith Understanding Conference (IUC) which was attended by approximately 500 people from all over the nation and even internationally. The conference brought together experienced interfaith leaders with the “next generation” of young leaders in a truly groundbreaking intergenerational event. The energy and enthusiasm from the IUC conference has given rise to two new youth interfaith groups – Interfaith Rochester Area Colleges (IFRAC) and Interfaith Rochester Area Youth (IFRAY – High School age.) The IUC conference, while sponsored by CISD and Nazareth College, was heavily funded by generous donations from the local business community and was planned and executed by CISD and Nazareth with heavy involvement of all the various interfaith leaders from the Rochester Interfaith community.

(more)

A new interfaith dialogue initiative was launched in 2010. The Hindu Christian Dialogue group met for the first time in November 2010. The Hindu Christian dialogue group is a partnership between the Hindu Temple of Rochester, The Gene Bennett Program for Life Long Learning at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School and GRCC. There are approximately 20 members in the dialogue group, with a diverse representation of Christian denominations and 10-12 members of the Hindu temple participating. The group meets on first Mondays of the month at the Hindu Temple of Rochester and has begun a rich and informative process of getting to know one another and working to understand one another's religious beliefs, practices and commitments. This is a big step forward and represents the first formal dialogue between Christians and the Hindu community here in Rochester. GRCC's Executive Director is a member of this new dialogue group.

Interfaith dialogue is alive and well in Rochester and GRCC, now the Faith In Action Network, is an active and important part of much of that dialogue activity.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Dr. C. Denise Yarbrough

Interfaith Health Care Coalition: The Coalition continues to meet on the third Mondays of each month from 4-5:30 at St. Joseph's Neighborhood Center. We advocated for universal, single payer in conjunction with many local, state, and national partners. We will now consider how to handle approaches to legislation that might roll back all or some of the changes and work to ensure that what is implemented will be available and most helpful to the vulnerable. We welcome people to join our core group and/or join our email lists for information, advocacy, and invitations to educational events. Contact Faith In Action Network to respond.

Progressive Neighborhood Branch of Visions FCU: Thank you to the faith community who helped to maintain the critical mission of Progressive Neighborhood FCU for 15 years. As many of you know, Visions FCU, originally IBM from Endicott, has merged with Progressive fulfilling their commitments to keep the branch, the name, the staff, and most important to us the mission programs and they have put their major assets into strengthening and adding to the mission programs, among them Progressive Way to Better Credit, a strong financial literacy program taught by Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Rochester, Inc. These classes are available to all faith members and to the people you serve. Contact FAN Network to respond.

Submitted by:
Sr. Beth LeValley

The following people contributed in 2010:

Leo Aman
Richard Bird
Judith Boyd
James Braker
Joseph E. Brown
Ann Buerschaper
Pamela Burch
David & Lila Bush
Tim Calkins
Catherine Carlson
Marjorie Chapin & Jean Parker
Alan & Suzanne Dailey
Lois Davis
Barbara Deming
Mary & Wendell Discher
Sally and Kenneth Dodgson
John & Barbara Englert
Trevor Ewell
John & Miriam Ganze
Kenneth Gerhard
Marie Gibson
Jeanne Gloss
Rev. Alan Gripe
Margaret Hale
Rev. Paul and Esther Hammer
Katherine Heiningner
Kenneth Hendel
David Hoecker
Neva Hoffmeier
Georgia Hubbard
Merilyn Israel
Steve Jarose
Ellen Kimbrough

Suzanne Knauf
Gene & Sarah Kohlenberg
Dan Lill
Mary Ellen Lopata
Richard Lunt
Bill & Sally McCoy
Carmel Merrill
Marvin Mich
Peter Mitchell
Richard Moore
Sue & John Murray
Rev. Richard & Beth Myers
Russell Olson
Elizabeth Osta
Rev. Hugh Outtersen
Joanne & David Poland
Bruce Pollock
Sharon Pratt
Lillian Price
Dorothy Reed-Roat
Rev. Philip Schaefer
Suzanne & Mike Schnittman
David Schraever
Bob & Betty Seidel
Wilma Sickels
Elizabeth Stevens
Lynne Stewart
Norma Stoneham
Edith Thoburn
Colleen Vogt-Trevisani
Gordon Webster
Rev. Gordon Webster
Jack Wheeler
Rev. Larry and Peg Witmer

If you contributed and your name is not listed, please call the office at 254-2570. Also, if you did not receive a receipt for payment in 2010, give us a call.

The following congregations contributed in 2010:

Blessed Sacrament, Church of the
BEOC Brockport Ecumen. Outreach
Brighton Reformed Church
Brighton UCC
Catholic Family Center
Christ Church, Unity
Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran
Church of Ascension
Church of Assumption
Church of Divine Inspiration
Covenant UMC
Dewey Avenue Presb
Downtown United Presb
First Baptist Brockport
First Baptist E. Penfield
First Baptist Fairport
First Baptist Rochester
First Congre. Church of Spencerport
First Congre. UCC of Fairport
First Presbyterian Church Pittsford
First Presbyterian, Brockport
First Universalist Church of Rochester
Genesee Baptist Church
Greece Baptist
Greece UMC
Henrietta UCC
Hilton Baptist Church
Honeoye UCC
Immanuel Baptist Church
Incarnate Word Lutheran Church of the

Irondequoit Presbyterian
Irondequoit UCC
Lake Avenue Baptist Church
Lakeside Presbyterian Church
Mountain Rise UCC
Mt. Olivet Baptist Church
Ogden Baptist Church
Peace of Christ Parish ***
People's Ministry in Christ
Perinton Lay Clergy Council
Reformation ELCA
Rush Henrietta Interfaith League
Sisters of Mercy
Sisters of St. Joseph
Spiritus Christi
St. Luke's Epis. Brockport
St. Luke's Epis. Fairport
St. Luke & St. Simon Cyrene
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Summerville PCUSA
Third Presbyterian Church
Union Cong. UCC Churchville
Union Presbyterian, Scottsville
United Church of Pittsford
Webster Baptist Church
Webster Council of Churches
Webster Presbyterian Church
First United Methodist, W. Web.
Webster UCC Congregational
West Henrietta Baptist

The following denominations contributed in 2010:

American Baptist Churches RGR
Episcopal Diocese of Rochester
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America RFL Region
Genesee Valley Presbytery
Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester
United Methodist Church of Western NY
United Church of Christ GVA

If your congregation or group gave in 2010 and is not listed, please contact the office at 254-2570.

	<u>Jan - Dec 10</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Program Income	
Faith in Action Banquet	21,107.00
Total Program Income	<u>21,107.00</u>
Denomination Contributions	8,534.00
Membership Dues	15,389.50
Donor Contributions	10,905.91
Fundraising	705.24
Administrative Fees	609.30
Interest and Dividends	47.28
Grant Income	<u>5,000.00</u>
Total Income	<u>62,298.23</u>
Expense	
Program Expenses	
Faith in Action Banquet	13,616.18
Social Issues	900.00
Program Expenses - Other	<u>675.00</u>
Total Program Expenses	15,191.18
Employee Wage & Benefits	
Salary & Wages	30,000.00
Health Insurance Premiums	4,673.60
Payroll Taxes	<u>2,484.80</u>
Total Employee Wage & Benefits	37,158.40
General & Administrative	
Rent - 2 Riverside Street	3,960.00
Postage	1,170.77
Office Supplies & Expenses	1,149.88
Legal & Professional Fees	125.00
Telephone	1,150.44
Insurance	1,642.60
Equipment & Maintenance	174.00
Marketing and Fundraising	574.12
Miscellaneous Administrative	<u>226.94</u>
Total General & Administrative	<u>10,173.75</u>
Total Expense	<u>62,523.33</u>
Net Ordinary Income	-225.10
Other Income/Expense	
Other Income	
Other Funds	
Progressive/Visions	8,053.07
Burial Fund	3,305.40
M E Heimburger Health Care	1,329.00
Wilcox Memorial Fund	2,025.00

Moody Fund	217.50
Total Other Funds	<u>14,929.97</u>
Total Other Income	14,929.97
Other Expense	
Other Fund Distributions	
Progressive/Visions	1,645.19
M E Heimburger Health Care	<u>2,152.70</u>
Total Other Fund Distributions	<u>3,797.89</u>
Total Other Expense	<u>3,797.89</u>
Net Other Income	<u>11,132.08</u>
Net Income	<u><u>10,906.98</u></u>

	<u>Dec 31,</u> <u>10</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Operating Cash	
Checking	6,841.82
Savings	6,373.02
Restricted Cash	
Beloved Community	-2,464.00
M E Heimburger Health Care Fund	-1,592.00
Wilcox Fund	<u>-1,832.00</u>
Total Restricted Cash	<u>-5,888.00</u>
Total Operating Cash	7,326.84
GRCC Burial Fund Now Account	3,306.23
Visions Savings Account	5,493.55
Visions Checking Account	<u>1,004.04</u>
Total Checking/Savings	<u>17,130.66</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>17,130.66</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>17,130.66</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Retained Earnings	6,223.68
Net Income	<u>10,906.98</u>
Total Equity	<u>17,130.66</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>17,130.66</u></u>

Accrual Basis January through December 2011

Proposed: Jan -Dec 11
Ordinary Income/Expense

Income

Program Income
Special Events 2,000.00
Faith in Action Banquet 22,000.00
Total Program Income 24,000.00
Denomination Contributions 8,000.00
Membership Dues 15,500.00
Donor Contributions 12,000.00
Fundraising 1,500.00
Grant Income 1,500.00
Total Income 62,500.00

Expense

Program Expenses
Faith in Action Banquet 14,000.00
Social Issues 1,500.00
Total Program Expenses 15,500.00

Employee Wage & Benefits
Salary & Wages 30,000.00
Health Insurance Premiums 5,200.00
Payroll Taxes 2,400.00
Total Employee Wage & Benefits 37,600.00

General & Administrative
Rent -2 Riverside Street 4,100.00
Postage 1,200.00
Office Supplies & Expenses 1,000.00
Telephone 1,200.00
Insurance 1,000.00
Equipment & Maintenance 300.00
Marketing and Fundraising 600.00
Total General & Administrative 9,400.00

Total Expense 62,500.00

Net Ordinary Income 0.00
Net Income 0.00

The yearend report is for the benefit of our members and donors and the greater community at large. Our intent is for accuracy and accountability to the best of our knowledge for those who we faithfully serve.

Annual Report 2010 – GRCC DBA: Faith In Action Network in Rochester, NY