

WHAT CAN I DO?

Join our Steering Committee, which plans events and service projects, coordinates publicity and prepares publications, and serves as a place to bring new ideas which can be used to build on our mission. The Steering Committee is a loosely knit group with a deep commitment to pluralism and our respective faith traditions.

Involve your house of worship, so that it too can be a part of this movement to move beyond tolerance, to build peace at a local level.

We meet monthly (except in July and December) usually on the first Monday of the month (except in Sept., we meet on the second Monday).

Have questions? Send us an email!

info@troyinterfaithgroup.org
troy.interfaith@gmail.com

PARTICIPATING FAITH COMMUNITIES

Ahmadiyya Muslim Community
Bahai Community
Bharatiya Temple of Metro Detroit
Big Beaver United Methodist
Central Woodward Christian Church
Congregation Shir Tikvah
Emerson Unitarian Universalist Church
Islamic Association of Greater Detroit
Northminster Presbyterian Church
St. Stephens Roman Catholic Church
St. Anastasia Roman Catholic Church
St. Stephens Episcopal Church
Troy First United Methodist
Various Sikh Gurudwaras in the area

CONVENERS

2005- June 2008

Rev. Rich Peacock,
Troy First United Methodist Church
(retired)

July 2008- current

Rev. Charlotte Sommers,
Northminster Presbyterian Church

*“Dear God, we are grateful for all the faith communities in Troy.
Move us beyond tolerance to loving and wanting the best for each other.
Fire up our faith communities to make peace and eliminate poverty.
Unite us to pray for
Shalom/ Salaam/ Shanti/ Peace to prevail on your green earth and in clear, blue skies.
Amen.”*

– Rev. Rich Peacock (retired),
Co-Founder & Convener 2004-08

www.troyinterfaithgroup.org



2009 Initiatives

Book Discussion Group
Dinner Discussion Groups
Youth Service Projects
Bereavement Counseling Info
and more...

WHAT IS THE TROY INTERFAITH GROUP?

Our Mission...

The Troy Interfaith Group exists to invite all faith communities to gather, grow and give for the sake of promoting the common values of love, peace and justice among all religions locally and globally. We believe that peace among peoples and nations requires peace among the religions.

www.troyinterfaithgroup.org



To contact us:

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or

troy.interfaith@gmail.com

Formed in April 2005, we came together to fill a need for an interfaith prayer service for the National Day of Prayer in our diverse community in Troy, Michigan. Our activities are based on and support the idea of pluralism*, which includes:

- an energetic engagement with diversity,
- an active seeking of understanding across lines of difference,
- an encounter of commitments;
- and is based on dialogue.

* pluralism as defined by Diana Eck at pluralism.org

OUR ANNUAL EVENTS

1. The National Day of Prayer: An interfaith service at a local house of worship to commemorate this important day, the first Thursday in May, and to remember why we came together – so that all Americans who choose to can come together in prayer for our common good.

2. The International Day of Peace, on Sept. 21: An event on this UN designated day, to engage the audience in discussions and activities related to building peace through mutual understanding of our respective faiths.

3. TIG Thanksgiving Celebration: The Sunday before Thanksgiving we come together at a House of Worship to give thanks, and celebrate local stories of cooperation and understanding that typify the American Dream, as highlighted in the AJC's "America's Table: A Thanksgiving Reader," published annually since 2001. We also feature a youth essay contest.

"Our organization started out by creating special events for the community to come together to pray. We have evolved into also hosting events where we either truly learn about one another, or we work together on various causes to help make our community a better place to live."

– Co-Founder Michael Silverstein,
Congregation Shir Tikvah

SERVING TOGETHER

Troy Interfaith Group members realized early on that serving together is a way to connect and honor our common social values. The causes we support (so far) include:

Troy People Concerned, an agency that provides critical social support services to the community.

Troy Community Coalition for the Prevention of Drug and Alcohol Abuse, because faith and abuse-prevention go hand-in-hand.



TIG Members serving breakfast at the 2008 Habitat Blitz Build.

City of Troy's MLK Jr. Day Celebration by sponsoring the annual breakfast held in January at Athens High School.

Habitat for Humanity by participating annually in the South Oakland Circle of Faith's involvement in the Pontiac Blitz Build.

WHAT ELSE WE HAVE DONE

In June 2005, we dedicated a Tree of Peace - the Michigan State Tree, a White Pine, famous with Native Americans who "buried the hatchet" under the tree's roots; ribbons painted with the Golden Rule from different faiths were tied to the Tree to celebrate Troy's 50th anniversary.

"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you' is common ground for all of us."

– Labyrinth Chair Ruth Turner,
Northminster Presbyterian Church

In June 2008, under the leadership of the Northminster Presbyterian Church and a faithful Labyrinth Committee, we dedicated the **Community Interfaith Labyrinth** to enable us to continue our spiritual journey through walking this mystical path – a concept that is found in many faith traditions.

