

3 faiths' pledge to fight racism continues with plans for action

By Stephen Huba 8 APRIL 98
Post staff reporter

In a forceful show of ecumenical solidarity, Cincinnati Jewish, Muslim and Christian leaders will meet today to urge their congregations to work for racial reconciliation.

The 16 members of the Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati, following a procession from St. Peter in Chains Cathedral to City Hall, will meet with three mayors to issue a joint statement on race.

The process was begun last summer by Mayor Roxanne Qualls when she asked religious leaders to address the city's racial problems.

On New Year's Day, MARCC members signed "Foundations for the Future," a beginning statement on race.

Today's gathering is the next step.

Attached to a shared statement will be 16 pre-

ambles outlining the priorities of each MARCC member.

Congregations will be expected to work toward improved race relations in Cincinnati in the coming year. MARCC is providing a list of things congregations can do.

"We decided to make this a top priority for 1998," said MARCC director the Rev. Duane Holm.

"The preambles give the theological and historical rationale" for action.

Members will leave St. Peter's at 12:50 p.m. and walk to City Hall, where they will make a brief presentation.

Ms. Qualls and two former mayors, Theodore Berry and Eugene Ruehlmann, will respond.

Berry was Cincinnati's first black mayor and Ruehlmann was mayor during the racial upheavals of 1968.