

Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati

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- Archdiocese of Cincinnati
- Association of Unity Churches
- Baptist Ministers Conference of Cincinnati and Vicinity
- Cincinnati Conference (Evangelical Lutheran Church In America)
- Cincinnati District (United Methodist)
- Cincinnati Islamic Center
- Diocese of Southern Ohio
- Disciples of Christ - SW Ohio
- Greek Orthodox Church of Holy Trinity-St. Nicholas
- Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance
- JCRC of The Jewish Federation
- Miami Association (American Baptists)
- United Church of Christ
- Presbytery of Cincinnati
- Religious Society of Friends
- Southwest Ohio - Northeast Kentucky Division (The Salvation Army)
- Unitarian Universalist Council of Greater Cincinnati

- Bishop Maurice Jackson president
- Adam Hall vice-president
- Pat Coyle vice-president
- Rev. Larry Pigg secretary
- Alan Chandler, assistant secretary
- Rev. Dan Weyand-Geise treasurer

Margaret A. Fox, executive director
Lisa Huneke, administrative assistant

MARCC is...

A coalition of Judicatories.
By JUDICATORIES, we mean the local, decision-making bodies of national denominations.

Each of these Judicatories is a valid, autonomous body. MARCC is a Coalition, a way of enabling these 17 Jewish, Greek Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Muslim, and Protestant Judicatories to work together on a few, agreed-upon, local social Concerns to make life better for people in metropolitan Cincinnati.

In the language of scripture, the religious community can work on social problems in three ways:

- Prophetic (holding up the absolute standards of God, OR
- Priestly (caring for each individual child of God), OR
- Kingly (or politically, choosing the best possible solution).

MARCC has been a self-conscious decision by Cincinnati Judicatories to work together in a kingly or political style.

Cincinnati Judicatories have learned over the years that to be effective together, Judicatories need to work

- on a few concerns,
- that are capable of local resolution,
- where there is a moral, religious concern, and
- where we can do our own research & fact-finding.
- We make major decisions by consensus of the member Judicatories. (If any one Judiciary says "No," the coalition of Judicatories does not work on it together.)
- We work on the concerns that are most important, urgent, and do able by the religious community.
- We try to work with decision makers when we can, and give them the credit.
- We try to leave the civic discourse at least a little better than we found it.

Through MARCC, Judicatories make decisions

- every year, at Judicatories' Shared Planning Conference, about which 2 local social concerns to work on in the coming year,
- every month, at Delegates Council (by a consensus of Judicatories), about major involvements in these 2 Concerns, and
- every week, at Executive Board (1 representative from each Judiciary), about how, when, and with whom to work.

MARCC is a continuing effort by Cincinnati Judicatories, under God,
"...to forgo the luxury of separate ways when a common path can be found..."

MARCC SPINNING A WEB SITE



Yes, it is true! MARCC is spinning a website. The temporary website is up and running at www.marcconline.com. The website consists of one page with a basic description of MARCC and two upcoming events, Metro Cincinnati Interfaith Youth Information Night and MARCC 40th Anniversary Celebration. Office contact may be made from the website. The permanent MARCC website will be different than the temporary page and fully up and running

in October 2008. To make this transition go smoothly MARCC needs your help. Please fill out the postcard you received in this mailing with your current mailing and e-mail addresses and return it a.s.a.p.

Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati

The Common Path

Volume 3, Issue 2 — August 2008

PUBLIC EDUCATION CONCERN

CPS School Superintendent Search

Following the passage of the March 4 Operating Levy the CPS School Board announced the search for a new school superintendent. In April a Citizens Advisory Committee was appointed. MARCC was asked to send a representative and chose Alice Perlman, a MARCC Delegates Council member representing from the Jewish Community Relations Council. Ms. Perlman is a former School Board President of Wyoming Public Schools and led a successful superintendent search for that school district

while President of the Wyoming District School Board. Ms. Perlman attended the Citizens Advisory Committee meetings, found the process frustrating and made a recommendation to the MARCC Executive Board to encourage a new search if a final candidate was not found. The MARCC Executive Board sent a letter to the School Board stating its 100% support for a new search if a final candidate could not be found in the first search. School Board members and some members

of the Citizens Advisory Committee thanked our coalition for its support during a critical time in the process. The new search process begins August 9th when the Citizens Advisory Committee re-convenes. The process will take place over the next 6 to 9 months. Mary Ronan is the Cincinnati Public Schools Interim School Superintendent. Her experience with CPS is as a current administrator in handling the implementation of policy in day to day operations.

School Finance

On March 4th residents living in the Cincinnati Public School District passed the 7.85 School Operating Tax Levy. Voters said "yes", which provides the bare resources for the next three years before another operating levy will need to be approved by the voters. The current school finance formula provides limited resources for our most precious enterprise, our children.

Governor Strickland is holding several public
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COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENT/JUSTICE REFORM CONCERN

Collaborative Agreement

The extension for the Collaborative Agreement ends this August 8th. MARCC has encouraged Saul Green, the Independent Monitor and Milton Dohoney, Cincinnati City Manager; to establish an advisory committee to insure the work of the Collaborative Agreement continues: community problem solving oriented policing, racial neutral police car stops and improved police community relations particularly in minority neighborhoods.

In February City Manager Dohoney convened a Traffic Stop Review Team due to the unsatisfactory progress of race neutral police traffic stops (according to the Rand Evaluation Report 08). Mr.

Dohoney asked a representative from MARCC, Cincinnati Initiative To Reduce Violence, Cincinnati Human Relations Commission, Collaborative Agreement Steering Committee, and Attorney for the Plaintiffs, The Police Partnering Center and Bridges plus the Police Chief and his four Assistant Police Chiefs, to come together on this team and suggest tasks for making improvements on the issue. The City Manager facilitated three meetings. The following tasks were identified at the last meeting. Tasks: City Manager Monitor issues and develop relationship with community

and police; build relationships on common ground; clarify what constitutes profiling. Police Police leadership working with African American leaders (faith, business, community); institute public education sessions on police policy, practices, law; continue to develop internal tracking process to identify suspected/real racial profilers and communicate new thinking; strategic focus to law enforcement. Public Conduct youth roundtables to work through recurring issues; City/Police work with public to build relationships/promote better understanding/meet people where they are; civic

groups provide forums for community education and dialogue; declare intolerance for violence. Manager/Police/Public More police/community dialogue, specifically around crime-why it is up or down and where, what do we need to do as a group to change; and when it is down what can we do to sustain it. Others Media: engaged to do more accurate reporting and less sensationalism. Outreach: unlicensed drivers-work to get them through the system. Young Adults: need to be at the table and involved in the process.
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UPCOMING EVENTS:**August 20th**

Metro Cincinnati Interfaith Informational Dinner
6-9 pm at First United Church of Christ, 5508 Glenview Avenue in College Hill

September 17th

MARCC Delegates Council Meeting
Undercroft St. Peter In Chains Cathedral
12 Noon

September 25th

JOB CLUB Facilitator Training
Allen Temple in Jordan's Crossing, 8:30-1:30 pm, breakfast and lunch included

October 29th

MARCC 40th Anniversary Celebration
St. Peter In Chains Cathedral, 5-7 pm

Metro Cincinnati Interfaith Youth

The 2007-2008 school year was a great one for the Metro Cincinnati Interfaith Youth Group. We started from a simple idea of bringing youth of many faiths together to learn from one another and serve the Greater Cincinnati community. From this one idea we didn't really know where it would lead, but here we are making plans for the upcoming year. At first we had some dwindling attendance numbers, but dedicated to one another and giving back to others, the youth have continued to support each other and be devoted members to the Metro Cincinnati Interfaith Youth. This year our group spent much of our time bonding and getting to know each other, sharing our diverse backgrounds and religions. We had fun bowling, playing games at Krazy City, and gathering for ice cream and coffee as we discussed numerous issues.

Our service event on May 4, 2008 at CAIN Ministry was a great success. We had over twenty youth come and help paint signs, garden, sort food/clothing items, and pass out flyers and posters for the Hunger Walk. After the service the group went back to the Hilltop United Methodist Church where the youth reflected on their day over a spaghetti dinner. The group was even featured on channel 9 and 19 news. Metro Cincinnati Interfaith Youth is creating a DVD about our group which showcases our activities this year.

We have also started brainstorming for the fall, and have an information evening planned where new youth can join and receive more information about who we are. At the meeting, there will be dinner as well as presentations about the group and service opportunities in the Cincinnati area. This will take place August 20th, from 6-9pm at the First United Church of Christ, 5508 Glenview Avenue in College Hill 45224.

We have come a long way and will continue to make strides by making the Greater Cincinnati area aware of the Metro Cincinnati Interfaith Youth and the unique group that we are.

*Melynda Johnson, BSW
Project Program Manager
MARCC Intern*

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Youth Service Day, May 4, 2008

Public Education**School Finance**

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education forums throughout urban areas in Ohio via public broadcasting stations. The Governor came to Cincinnati on July 28 with WCET hosting, 4:00 to 6:00 pm. Students, parents, teachers, administrators, residents, public officials and business persons filled the audience. This forum focused on vision, mission, goals, objectives and ideas for a more comprehensive, flexible school system to prepare Ohio children to be highly skilled, technologically savvy and economically successful in the 21st Century. MARCC watched the forum, discussed the ideas and gave feedback with representatives from the League of Women Voters, Woman's City Club, and Citizens for Civic Renewal, Cincinnati and the Urban League. Here are the three main points the group agreed on:

1. Overhaul the recruitment, training, mentoring, workload, and reimbursement of teachers; and train student teachers in the role of mentor, advocate, and counselor before becoming certified teachers.

2. Overhaul the public school system with ideas the Governor suggested: interdisciplinary approach to teaching, hands-on learning, longer school year/day, etc.

3. Multi-sensory assessment of each child's receptive and expressive abilities and tie the information to individualized development plans (IDP) in kindergarten or earlier.

A second forum will be held among the urban areas this fall to discuss how Ohio residents want to fund this new public school initiative. Groups around the city watched the program, discussed the new ideas brought up by the audience attending the forum, supported some ideas and added to their ideas and sent them back to the Governor's office.

Collaborative Agreement/ Justice Reform

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City Manager Dohoney has asked this group and two other individuals to sit on an Advisory Group responsible to him as the entity to do the ongoing monitoring of the implementation of the Collaborative Agreement. He will submit this request in writing to Federal Court Judge Dlott and Judge Merz in a formal court proceeding mid to late August 2008. Formal monitoring by Saul Green's team will end with the final monitoring report that will come out in October 2008.

Justice Reform

Last November County Commissioners Portune and Pepper, Sheriff Leis and County Prosecutor Deters signed a 7-Point Pledge jointly developed by MARCC and Ohio Justice & Public Policy Center. The pledge included

- assessment of criminal justice data,
- increase diversion and treatment programs,
- pre-trial screening processes,
- decrease the number of minority youth involved with our juvenile justice system,
- support education and job training programs to improve employment opportunities for those formerly incarcerated,
- develop Certificate of Rehabilitation program to document meaningful efforts by offenders to prepare for successful reentry
- support efforts in the public and private sectors to expand employment opportunities for those formerly incarcerated

How is progress coming along on the pledge?

- The Certificate of Rehabilitation is being crafted by a work group of the Hamilton County Criminal Justice Commission.
- In April 2008 Commissioner Pepper appointed a County Juvenile Justice Committee to meet through December and make recommendations for change in the Juvenile Justice System. Arlene Katz, former President of MARCC, was approved by Executive Board to serve on this committee. Ms. Katz served for over 20 years as Director of Court Services under Judge Grossman in Juvenile Court as well as on Juvenile Justice State Commissions. She also is one of the co-founders of Pro-Kids, a local non-profit agency that trains volunteers to become CASAs, Court Appointed Advocates for Children, whose mission is to make sure the child is safe, needs are met, and help each child move into a safe, permanent and nurturing home.
- MARCC is partnering with the Southwestern Ohio Work Force Investment Board to sponsor an Interfaith Job Club Project. The purpose of a Job Club is to support those re-entering the workforce, giving them an environment where they can sort out any personal problems or challenges that may come up on the job. Congregations, located in neighborhoods where persons who were formerly incarcerated reside, are being asked to host a Job Club. There will be at least 20 sites. Job Clubs/Sites will be facilitated by a small group of pastors/members of each selected congregation. Job Clubs will meet weekly with several sites open Monday through Thursday in and outside of the city. Facilitators Training will take place at Allen Temple in Jordan's Crossing on Thursday, September 25th from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**Judiciary Upcoming Holy Days**

August 15	Roman Catholic Holy Day Feast of the Assumption of Mary
September 1	Muslims begin Ramadan
September 29	Jews begin at sundown to celebrate Rosh Hashanah: Jewish New Year
September 30	Muslims end Ramadan Jews celebrate Rosh Hashanah