

A Portrait of North American Interfaith Organizations and Activities

Key to Types:

- A) Local, metropolitan or regional ecumenical or interfaith group
- B) Central office or structure of a network, national or international interfaith organization or multifaith non-governmental organization
- C) Chapter, member or affiliate of a national or international ecumenical or inter-religious body or network.
- D) Interfaith office or agency or other part of a single faith community
- E) Academic or Educational: campus ministry; institutes; foundations
- F) Media bodies concerned with different religious traditions and/or relationships among them
- G) Centers for spirituality, holistic health, adult education, counseling, etc.

(To add your organization to the Portraits or to submit corrections or new information, please select and copy the [Survey](#), then email it to Joel Beversluis at conexus@iserv.net)

Type A: Local, metropolitan or regional ecumenical or interfaith groups

Alliance for Spiritual Community

24032 Caravel Place

Laguna Niguel, CA 92677

Tel: 949 661-3087

Fax: 949 496-5535

Email: TheASC949@aol.com

Web site: planned

Organizational History, Purpose, and Leadership:

Year founded: 1992

Purpose: To proclaim and affirm the spiritual nature of all communities by providing education to the general public and to foster those ideas, values, and programs for individuals, neighborhoods and groups that express spiritual community.

Faiths represented on leadership group or Board: Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Muslim, Judaism, Native American, Vedanta.

Significant population increases among minority faiths in our area during the past 30 years: Islam, Buddhism, Baha'i, Hindu

Has participation in leadership and program by members of minority faiths increased during the life of your organization? Yes. People are more accepting of "other" faiths and now are most welcoming. We look for ways to broaden our outreach in these traditions.

Program Areas.

- a) Dialogue and discussion groups
- b) Education: classes; workshops; distribution of materials; Religious Diversity Faire
- c) Public events: Prayer Breakfast; Parade--coordinate with local city council

Outreach:

Most consistent participants or audience: Christian, Baha'i, Jewish, Buddhist, Muslim, Vedanta.

Other participants: Wicca, Hindu, Eckankar, Unitarian

Would like to reach: More Buddhist sects.

Insights or concerns: "We live in one of the most religiously diverse regions of the world (Los Angeles). I think grassroots interfaith gatherings are a key to developing harmonious relationships. There's something about praying together, eating together, getting to know each other that leads to a sense of connectedness and the realization that we ARE all part of one family--the human family." (Kay Lindahl)

American Forum for Jewish-Christian Cooperation

c/o Dr. David Ben- Ami, Rabbi

1407 Montfort Dr.

Harrisburg, PA 17110

Tel : 717 236-0437 / Fax: 717 540-1430 / Web site: planned

Additional: The address above is to the office of AFJCC, a civic organization engaged in a nationwide program. AFJCC is also affiliated with International Inter-Religious Council. AFJCC is a completely voluntary group.

Organizational History, Purpose, and Leadership:

Year founded: 1981

Purpose: To promote dialogue and "build bridges of understanding: between ethnic and religious leaders, here and abroad; to advance Jewish-Christian cooperation and dialogue.

Faiths represented on leadership group or Board: Jewish, Catholic; Eastern Orthodox, Byzantine; Lutheran, and Protestant denominations

Significant population increases among minority faiths in our area during the past 30 years: Hindus, Muslims; Hispanic Catholics and Bruderhof Community.

Changing attitudes toward "other" faiths during this time:

Program Areas

Dialogue or discussion groups

Education: workshops; distribution of materials

Public events: concerts; conferences; worship or prayer; convocations; Annual Diplomatic Passover Seder (International)

Advocacy or Information: religious freedom; peace

Inter-institutional relationships, consultations, or representation; other:

Media: publications; web site

Recent interfaith activities: Bicentennial Inaugural Religious Convocation; Thanksgiving

Convocations; Kristallnacht (50th) Observance in Washington D.C.; Religious Freedom Convocation; interfaith Seders.

New interfaith initiatives anticipated for the next year or two: Millennium Commemoration, Celebration Council for 2000.

Outreach:

Most consistent participants or audience: Catholic-Jewish; Evangelical-Jewish;

Occasional participants: Presbyterians; Episcopalians,

Who would you like to reach, but haven't yet? Mormons, Muslims, Hindus, Mennonites, Amish and Buddhists in the USA.

Participation by members of minority faiths has increased during the life of this organization. Yes, with more dialogue and coming together when crises occur, such as Serbian conflict, anti-semitic incidents, Cuban and Chinese quests for democracy.

Other insights or concerns: "Leaders and groups respond if contacted, and need constant follow-through. If you don't lead, nothing happens. Constant initiative required. "

Arkansas Interfaith

PO Box 151

Scott AR 72142

501 961-2626 / email: aicark@aol.com

Organizational History, Purpose, and Leadership:

Purpose: To dialogue and learn about each other. To help white and black ministers meet and seek peace together in Central High school crisis.

Year founded: 1957

Faiths represented on leadership group or Board: Catholic, Episcopal, Presbyterian, Methodist, AME, CME, AMEZion, Lutheran, Unitarian, Jewish Muslim, UCC, Disciples.

Significant population increases among faiths in our area during the past 30 years: Fundamentalists, Pentecostals.

Has participation by members of minority faiths increased during the life of your organization?
No. They are invited, but their congregational governance structure keeps them from joining our group.

Program Areas

Dialogue /discussion groups

Education: classes and workshops

Public events: conferences; worship or prayer

Legislative Advocacy peace; hunger; Day at the Legislature; welfare; mentoring:

Media: newsletter or other publications; radio or tv broadcast; email

Direct service: Our House Shelter, which provided housing for 1600, meals for 38,775, Day Care and job training. Also a Disaster Task Force that dealt with the tornado disaster.

A recent interfaith program or activity: Nearly 400 people, including clergy, lay people and students, came from every corner of Arkansas for the Day at the Legislature to meet new representatives, to speak for the children, for the voiceless.

New interfaith initiatives anticipated for the next year or two: Youth Event re: school violence. Disaster Committee.

Outreach:

Most consistent participants or audience: Catholic, Episcopal, Presbyterian, Methodist, AME, CME, AMEZion, Lutheran, Unitarian, Jewish, Muslim, UCC, Disciples.

Occasional participants: Baptists, Seventh Day Adventists

Would like to reach: More young people.

Other insights or concerns: "People of faith must lead the way to living peaceably together and working cooperatively." (Mimi Dortch)

Brockton Interfaith Community

65 West Elm St.

Brockton, MA 02301

Tel. 508 587-9550

Organizational History, Purpose, and Leadership:

Purpose: Helping communities of faith develop relational power in order to build leadership and address issues of common concern. As well as being a local interfaith group, we are also a broad-based community organization. BIC is multi-faith, multi-lingual, multi-racial, non-partisan.

Year founded: 1990

Faiths represented on leadership group or Board: Catholics, Baptists, Methodist, UCC, AME Zion, Lutheran, Apostolic, UU, Jewish. Representing a coalition of 19 religious congregations.

Significant population increases among minority faiths in our area during the past 30 years: Evangelicals and Pentecostals

Changing attitudes toward "other" faiths during this time: Increased involvement and relationship- building.

Program Areas. (*indicates area considered most effective.)

Education: workshops, leadership development; classes.

*Legislative and Community Advocacy and Information on many issues, especially: Home ownership, Neighborhood Revitalization, Youth Initiatives, Health Care, Crime prevention,

Description of a recent interfaith program or activity: BIC is recognized as a powerful organization in the city of Brockton, consistently turning out 600 people to its annual convention to act on their faith and work together to make Brockton a better place for all of its inhabitants.

New interfaith initiatives anticipated for the next year or two: Living wage jobs campaign, increased involvement of Cape residents and Haitians; expansion of our congregational development work.

Outreach:

Most consistent participants or audience: Catholics, Jews, UCC, Baptists, Methodists

Others listed above participate occasionally in our programs.

Would like to reach, but haven't yet: Further inclusion of evangelicals, Pentecostals, Greek Orthodox.

Other insights or concerns: "People don't do things because they read about them in bulletins,

and people don't get to know each other just by sitting in the same room at annual events. We've learned that if people of faith want to come together to make their visions matter, there needs to be intentional work in relationship-building and then consistent, realistic mobilization of power."

The Church Council of Greater Seattle

4759 15th Ave. NE

Seattle, WA 98105-4404

Tel. 206 525-1213 / Fax: 206 5251218

Organizational History, Purpose, and Leadership:

(Information compiled by the editor from the Council's newspaper, the *Source*, not from the survey.)

Purpose: An ecumenical council of Christian churches that coordinates news flow and networking, provides direct services, information and advocacy on social issues, coordinates task forces and public events, and encourages relationships between members of all faiths. The Council also

Year founded: 1919

Faiths represented on leadership group or Board: Christian

As in many parts of the west coast, there have been significant population increases among minority faiths in the Seattle area during the past 30 years.

Program Areas.

Discussion groups and task forces.

Public events such as visits to places of worship of other-than-Christian faiths

Legislative Advocacy and/or information on issues such as housing, global economics, ecology, racial justice and harmony,

Inter-institutional relationships, including through a part-time Interfaith Relations staff person.

Media: The Source, a very substantial monthly paper, reports on events and ideas from many faith communities and organizations, as well as on Council programs and news.

Direct Services: housing issues, a food service

A recent interfaith activity: Participation in a coalition of community organizations that gathered to denounce the "Indian bashing" that accompanied the Makah Nation's whale hunt. The Press Conference affirmed a long-standing partnership between the churches and the indigenous communities.

Council of Churches and Synagogues

628 Main St.

Stamford, CT 06901

Tel. 203 324-7816 / fax: 203 356-0244 / email: council@flvax.ferg.lib.ct.us

Web site: www.interfaithcouncil.org

Organizational History, Purpose, and Leadership:

Purpose: A membership organization composed of 107 congregations and religious-based social service agencies, whose purpose is to unite its members for dialogue, fellowship and action, and to serve the community in areas of basic human need.

Year founded: 1938 (Originally named "Council of Churches.")

Faiths represented on leadership group or Board: Christian and Jewish

Significant population increases among minority faiths in our area: Islam and Judaism

Changing attitudes toward "other" faiths during this time: Reflecting a change of attitude to be more inclusive, in 1995 our organization officially became the Council of Churches and Synagogues. In 1997, the ByLaws were changed to say "the membership of the Council shall consist of worshipping religious bodies that are in agreement with the statement of the Mission." There has been recent interest by a newly formed Muslim group to be a participant in some of our events, and an invitation to learn about them. Also, Baha'i participation has increased.

Program Areas

Dialogue/discussion groups

Education: workshops; distribution of materials

Public events: concerts; conferences; worship or prayer

Legislative Advocacy or Information: peace; hunger; gun legislation; welfare reform

Inter-institutional relationships, consultations or representation

Media: newsletter; web site

Services: Food Bank, purchasing program, shopping and delivery service; Senior support services, Prison Visitation program, an affordable housing and home rehabilitation program; a fuel bank, and more.

New interfaith initiatives anticipated: Workshop for religious educators on different Houses of worship; a series focusing on what faith groups believe; changing our logo, with the possibility of changing the organization's name to Council of Faiths.

Outreach:

Most consistent participants or audience: Congregationalists, Presbyterians, Jews. Others occasional participants: Roman Catholic; Greek Orthodox

Would like to reach: Russian Orthodox, Muslims

Participation by members of minority faiths has increased in programs or leadership of programs in our organization.

Other insights or concerns: "Getting the people not yet interested in learning about "the other" to participate in our activities and become more knowledgeable, and thus tolerant and accepting of each other." (Deborah C. Goldberg)

Des Moines Area Religious Council

3816 36th St.

Des Moines, IA 50310

Tel. 515 277-6969 / Fax: 515 274-8389 / email: dmreligious@mcleodusa.net

Organizational History, Purpose, and Leadership:

Purpose: Provide a common means of responding to basic human needs in ways single congregations can not do; also provides a context for interfaith dialogue, support, education and fellowship and serving as a liaison between DMARC member congregations and the greater Des Moines community.

Year founded: 1952

Significant population increases among minority faiths in our area during the past 30 years:
Buddhist, Muslim

Changing attitudes toward "other" faiths during this time: More recognition of their presence and accommodation of their religious rituals.

Program Areas.

Dialogue /discussion groups

Education: classes; workshops; distribution of materials

Public events: conferences

Advocacy and Information on religious freedom; hunger

Inter-institutional relationships, consultations

Media: publications

Dutchess Interfaith Council, Inc.

9 Vassar St.

Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Tel. 914 471-7333

Organization:

Purposes: To deepen the spiritual forces of our community; to respect the uniqueness of each congregation in its individual style of worship, culture and tradition; to focus the attention and energies of the religious communities on urgent community problems; to lessen inter-group tensions and promote reconciliation; to combat community deterioration; to eliminate prejudice and discrimination; to coordinate and consolidate, where possible, existing efforts carried out by member groups, with due respect for principles of autonomy and integrity; to provide the framework and facilities for groups of congregations to band together for common projects or purposes; to develop and/or operate service-oriented programs which will address unmet needs in our community.

Year founded: 1972

Faiths represented on leadership group or Board: Christians (R.C. and Prot.) Jews (Cons., Ref. & Orth.) Baha'i, Unitarian.

Significant population increases among minority faiths in our area during the past 30 years: Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist.

Changing attitudes toward "other" faiths during this time: More openness to and curiosity about the practices and theologies of other groups. Leadership participation by minorities has increased.

Program Areas. (*indicates area considered most effective.)

Dialogue/discussion groups

Education: workshops and distribution of materials:

Public events: concerts; worship or prayer

Advocacy or Information: hunger , economic justice

Inter-institutional relationships, community coalitions

Media: broadcast

Description of a recent interfaith activities: Interfaith Crop Walk for Hunger; Annual Music Festival; Interfaith Thanksgiving Service; Projects for "Racial Unity, Beyond Tolerance," HIV/AIDS Ministry; Tours of Houses of Worship.

Outreach:

Most consistent participants or audience: Roman Catholic, Protestant Christians, Jews, Unitarians, Baha'is.

Others occasional participants: Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists.

Would you like to reach: Our goal is to have included Muslims, Buddhists and Hindus as members with a short time.

Participation by members of minority faiths has increased during the life of our organization.

Insights or concerns: "My hope is that, in the new century, religious communities of all kinds will adopt the language of human rights and be enabled to work together more effectively for social justice." (Rev. Gail A. Burger)

Grand Rapids Area Center for Ecumenism (GRACE)

38 Fulton West

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Tel. 616 774-2042 / Fax 616 682-9023 / Email: lmitchell@graceoffice.org /
www.graceoffice.org

Organizational History, Purpose, and Leadership:

Purpose: A metropolitan ecumenical organization that invites individuals, congregations and community into greater reconciliation as together we provide cooperative ministry, promote justice, and celebrate God's love.

Year founded: 1972 (following a Council of Churches formed in the late '40s)

Faiths represented on leadership group or Board: 14 Christian denominations through congregational affiliation.

Significant population increases among minority faiths in our area during the past 30 years:
Buddhism, Islam

Changing attitudes toward "other" faiths during this time: less ignorance.

Interfaith Program Areas.

Education: distribution of materials

Public events: support Interfaith Dialogue Association conferences; also worship/prayer services such as Prayer for Peace in Kosovo in Spring 1999 and Interfaith AIDS Prayer Service.

Ongoing collaboration with interfaith organization and colleges in Interfaith/ World Religions Conferences.

Outreach:

Most consistent participants or audience: Christian, since we are a Christian ecumenical organization. Minority participants in some events include Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Baha'i.

Participation by members of minority faiths has increased in recent years, although some interfaith activities go back as far as 40 years. Related to population factors.

Other insights or concerns: We need to attempt educational efforts that promote acceptance

and, in a sense, wait for population diversity to catch up.

Interfaith Association of Central Ohio

57 Jefferson Ave.

Columbus, OH 43215-3092

(information based on IACO's newsletter, not on the survey)

Goals: To create an inter-religious community based on understanding, friendship, and trust. To educate adherents and the public about customs and practices of faith traditions. To provide interfaith public worship and ceremonies expressing local and global concerns. To promote social justice, peace and human dignity.

Interfaith Center at the Presidio

PO Box 29055

San Francisco, CA 94129

Tel. 415 775-4635 / fax. 415 771-8681 / www.interfaith-presidio.org

Organizational History, Purpose, and Leadership:

Purpose: To welcome and celebrate the diverse faith traditions and spiritual wisdom of the Bay Area.

Year founded: 1995

Faiths represented on leadership group or Board: Amer. Indian, Buddhist, Catholic, Mormon, Muslim, Hindu, Jewish, Protestant.

There have been significant population increases among all minority faiths in the San Francisco Bay area during the past 30 years. More Muslims in recent years

Program Areas

Dialogue/discussion groups

Education: workshops; research-action projects.

Public events: concerts; conferences; worship and prayer

Inter-institutional relationships, consultations, or representation

Media: newsletter; broadcast; web site

Recent interfaith program or activity: The Chapel, formerly the military Chapel at the Presidio naval center, is now the home of the Interfaith Center. It is used for meetings of many kinds, interfaith and single-faith weddings, concerts, community meetings, interfaith group meetings, weekly meditations, Thanksgiving and New Year's celebrations, etc.

New interfaith initiatives anticipated: Working with the "appreciative inquiry" style of getting to know another person, especially from another faith tradition.

Outreach:

Most consistent participants or audience: Christians predominate, but it is very eclectic.

Other insights or concerns: Growth and vitality keep growing in our organization.

InterFaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington (IFC)

1419 V St., NW

Washington, DC 20009

Tel. 202 234-6300 / Fax: 202 234-6303 / web-site: www.interfaith-metrodc.org

Organizational History, Purpose, and Leadership:

Purpose: To bring together historic faith communities in metro DC area; to increase understanding and dialogue among persons of diverse faiths who come from different races and cultures and to work jointly on critical issues of social and economic justice.

Year founded: 1979

Faiths represented on leadership group or Board: Baha'i, Hindu-Jain, Islamic, Jewish, Latter-day Saints, Protestant, Roman Catholic, and Sikh

Significant population increases among minority faiths in our area during the past 30 years: Hindu, Buddhist, Islamic, Sikh, Baha'i

Changing attitudes toward "other" faiths during this time: Yes they have changed because of

greater opportunities to get to know or have to work with diverse people; and because of IFC's work for 20 years; and because of growing openness in most of the community.

Program Areas

Dialogue and discussion groups

Education: workshops; distribution of materials and other forms

Public events: Annual concert; conferences; worship/prayer; and others

Legislative Advocacy or Information: religious freedom; hunger; and lots more.

Inter-institutional relationships: coalition building

Media: newsletter; a little radio broadcast; web site

Conflict resolution (some)

Direct Services: (housing, food, social services, AIDS, education)

Recent interfaith program or activity: "Workshop for Teachers (and Potential Teachers) of Courses with Content about Religions" (Aug. '99); Youth Programs: a Prayer Vigil for the Earth; "Why I love to be a . . . [indicate religious tradition] . . ." Pizza Party.

New interfaith initiatives anticipated for the next year or two: New Congregational Partnerships to Heal the Community project; strengthened work on social and economic justice; strengthened work with high school youth.

Outreach:

Baha'is are smallest group but largest % at Concert; but we have good or pretty good participation from all faiths.

Would like to reach: Buddhists are working on joining; Zoroastrians want to join; Unitarians are interested.

Participation by members of minority faiths has increased in our programs and in leadership of programs. We began (1979) with Islamic, Jewish, Protestant and Roman Catholic participation.

Interfaith Council of Greater New York

20 Washington Square North

New York, NY 10011

Tel. 212 541-8350

(Information based on brochure, not survey.)

Formed shortly after the Parliament of the World's Religions in 1993.

Purpose: The world continues to search for new directions and perspectives to meet the challenges of contemporary society. The Council is dedicated to helping people unite to build Interfaith understanding, community and harmony. It committed to bringing the unique contribution of religion and spirituality to bear on the critical problems that beset today's society.

Programs: Forums to address issues; spiritual encounters among peoples of various faith traditions; partnerships with other interfaith organizations (such as Temple of Understanding); public awareness and community programs.

Interfaith Dialogue Association

38 Fulton W., Suite 80

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Tel. 616-458-0307 / alternate: 616 682-9022

Organizational History, Purpose, and Leadership:

Established 1989.

Purposes: To promote understanding and cooperation among religions and spiritual communities in West Michigan.

Goals include:

1. To eliminate prejudice that creates tension between members of different religious traditions and ideologies;
2. To advance understanding of religions and ideologies by study, dialogue and sharing about religious experiences.
3. To foster appreciation for the richness of diverse religions and ideologies;
4. To identify commonalities and differences among religions and ideologies to enhance

personal growth and transformation.

5. To promote friendship and trust among people of diverse religions and ideologies.

Faiths represented on leadership group or Board: Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Jewish, Unitarian.

Significant population increases among minority faiths in our area during the past 30 years: Muslim (including refugees), Hindu, Baha'i, Buddhist (Vietnamese refugees)

Changing attitudes toward "other" faiths during this time: IDA has had the support of several local colleges, the area ecumenical organization, and the newspaper's religion editors in providing information about members of minority faiths. Although the West Michigan is known as a conservative Christian community, attitudes toward others, especially refugees, have been welcoming.

Program Areas:

Dialogue groups;

Public Events and Education: workshops at annual conferences, distribution of materials; presentations in schools; annual public lecture series.

Prayer around issues and international crises.

Media: newsletter; weekly radio broadcasts; web site (in preparation)

Description of a recent interfaith program or activity: Annual interfaith and world religions conferences since 1989 have drawn many students and adults, and gather support of Christian and secular colleges in the area.

Outreach:

Most consistent participants or audience: Christian; Muslim, Hindu, Baha'i

Which others participate occasionally in your programs: Buddhist

Who would you like to reach, but haven't yet: Native Americans.

Participation by members of minority faiths has increased during the life of our organization, in programs and leadership.

Other insights or concerns: Interfaith dialogue and cooperation is not a high priority for most members of the majority tradition (Christianity, both Catholic and Protestant). But public attitudes and information can be enhanced through media, especially radio and newspaper, by an

interfaith group of active, committed people.

Interfaith Voices for Peace and Justice

PO Box 270214

St. Louis, MO 63127

(information based on brochures, not survey)

Tel. 314 892-1192 / Fax: 314 892-1255 / email: revweb@worldnet.att.net

Web site: www.origin.org/ifv.htm

Purpose: To provide print & electronic links between people of faith, faith communities, and interfaith groups who seek to live their faith's directives.

Interfaith Voices holds that "all of the world's major faith groups have a common behavioral ethic. The same directive guides our actions, individually and communally."

"We do not need to be of one faith or one religion. We do need to act on the behavioral ethic we all proclaim. We do need to encourage and promote one another's efforts to implement that common ethic. We need opportunity to share knowledge, learn from others' experiences, coordinate efforts, and cultivate friendships."

Note: This incredible database of organizations is much richer than the one you are reading. It includes information on more than 780 organizations. The information is currently available online only at www.origin.org/ifv.htm

InterReligious Council of Central New York

3049 E. Genesee St.

Syracuse, NY 13224

(Information based on a brochure, not the survey.)

Tel. 315 474-1261

The InterReligious Council is an organization of various religious bodies which covenant to foster community through interreligious and interfacial action, ministry, education and dialogue.

At the heart of the Council is its participatory nature. The Council encourages participation from all religious traditions and racial groups while working in partnership with the wider community. It is supported by 13 participating Christian denominations, and has offices in Binghamton, Ithaca, and the Capital Region. One of its services is a Refugee Resettlement Program.

Inter-Religious Federation for World Peace (IRFWP)

4 West 43rd. St.

New York, NY 10036

(information drawn from newsletters and publicity; no survey provided)

Tel. 212 869-6023 / Fax 212 869-6424 / email: irfwp@pipeline.com

Founded in 1990 by the Rev. Sun Myung Moon.

IRFWP is an association of religious leaders and believers belonging to all the main traditions of the world's faiths. The autonomous Presiding Council is comprised of a wide range of leaders and scholars from the religious traditions of the world. IRFWP works for harmony within the family of humankind. Its ultimate aim is the achievement of global peace and justice through the spiritual power, wisdom, and cooperation of the world's religions. Membership is world wide, with individuals and institutions, as well as a network of regional and national chapters.

Kentuckiana Interfaith Community

1113 South 4th St.

Louisville, KY 40203

Tel. 502 587-6265

Fax: 502 540-5017

Email: KIC@crnKy.org

Organizational History, Purpose, and Leadership:

Purpose: A regional interfaith group that brings together people of faith for dialogue, cooperation, and advocacy.

Year founded: 1979

Faiths represented on leadership group or Board: Catholic, Jewish, all major Protestant

Significant population increases among minority faiths in our area during the past 30 years:
Islam

Changing attitudes toward "other" faiths during this time: Interfaith marriages are much more common today. KIC has recently invited the Islamic Community to become members.

Program Areas.

Dialogue or discussion groups

Education through distribution of materials

Public worship or prayer

Advocacy or Information peace and hunger

Media: newsletter and TV broadcast

Description of a recent interfaith program or activity: In June of 1999 our agency held Anti-Hate Crimes Week. The Governor and mayor officially designated the week as Anti-Hate Crimes Week.

Outreach: Most consistent participants or audience: Catholic, Jewish, Methodist, Presbyterian.

Occasional: Disciples, Baptists.

Participation by members of minority faiths has not significantly increased during the life of our organization.

Other insights or concerns: "It is difficult to engage persons in interfaith activity, 1) because of so many opportunities and demands on their time, energy and resources; 2) because they must first be deeply ingrained and grounded in their own faith; most people are periferally involved in faith. It is a challenge. " (Reba S. Cobb, Exec. Dir.)

Madison Area Interfaith Network

PO Box 5207

Madison, WI 53705

Tel. 608 236-0889 / email: mainlink@danenet.wicip.org

Web site: www.danenet.wicip.org/mainlink

Organizational History, Purpose, and Leadership

Year founded: Founded in 1995 as a regional interfaith group.

MAIN is a member of the North American Interfaith Network and is supporting the development of a mid west chapter of Association of Interfaith Ministers.

Founded in the Spring of 1995 with a mission which can be found at <http://www.danenet.wicip.org/mainlink/mission.html>

The Board of Directors and Advisory Board has been rich in religious diversity: Christian (catholic, protestant, orthodox), Native American (Ojibwe), Wiccan, Unitarian Universalist, Buddhist (Tibetan, Insight, Zen — two schools), Taoist, Islam, Jewish, Hindu (Vedanta, traditional, Ananda Marga), Religious Science, Sufi and Baha'i.

There has been a significant increase among minority faiths in our area during the past 30 years - the top three would be Wiccan (and other pagan beliefs), Baha'i and Buddhism (in all its forms), becoming significant percentage points of our population. Additionally, the local Sikhs, though still small, have a regular location for gathering. Another mosque opened recently. Religious Science and new thought groups have also seen increase. And although classification as a minority religion may be a new idea for UU's, they are impressive part of our religious community having 4 active congregations in the area. To put this in perspective, the population of our area is maybe 500,000.

Since the entire area is in population growth, all religious groups have shown growth, so other minority religion have posted increases which may be hard to read, especially the Hindu and Jewish populations. The Jewish community is certainly more diverse adding 3 synagogues in the last 30 years (Orthodox, Reconstructionist and Interdenominational) and have developed and maintain a Madison Jewish Community Council. The Hindus have no local congruency except ethnically. The Vedanta Society, Ananda Marga and others may be outgrowths of earlier communes and related efforts in Madison.

Minority faiths have always participated in the life of MAIN. Attitudes toward "other" faiths has changed, especially in the local media since 1995 where some focused discussions and letters have increased diverse coverage. Generally, it is hard to gauge.

Programs:

- a. dialogue/discussion groups
- b. education (all forms listed, including speakers)
- c. public events (all forms listed, including local interfaith awards)
- d. advocacy (minimal, but have spoke out for religious freedom, and have co-sponsored religious freedom, peace and ecology events)
- e. inter-institutional relationships, consultations and representation
- f. media: newsletter, web site, broadcast TV and radio

New initiative: 2nd Annual Interfaith Awareness Week and Greater effort to achieve a Madison interfaith center.

Outreach

Most consistent participants: Christian(catholic/christian/protestant), Baha'i , Buddhist, UU, Wiccan

Occasional participants: Muslim, Jewish, Evangelical, Sikh, others

Who to reach? Large judicatories and State wide bodies; Shinto; Jain

Insights or Concerns: "We need to be vigilant that interfaith doesn't become a lesser form of Universalism and that the work doesn't become only "preaching to the choir." We need to capture the imagination and attention of the majority middle of the road people in our communities. We need to have Christian/Wiccan dialogues because this is a source of great tension. We need to stand with Native Americans in protecting their sacred sites. We need to overcome bias and prejudice with accurate and truthful information about religious groups. We need to provide balanced Multi-faith Cult Awareness in an interfaith context, so that we are not guilty of approval of destructive groups merely by association or by our desire for inclusiveness. We need to move beyond ethnicity in outreach and continue being inclusive. Those of ethnic religions need to feel safe in presenting their beliefs, understanding that their religion may evolve to a unique American expression. We also need to be very careful of religious "tokenism" in our organizations and we need to be cautious about drawing boundaries of who can be involved, because we do not know when the boundaries will exclude us."

(John-Brian Paprock, coordinator
Madison Area Interfaith Network)

Madison Area Urban Ministry

Tel. 608 256-0906

Fax. 608 256-4387

Email: mum@chorus.net

www.midplains.net/~mum/

Organization:

A metropolitan interfaith group that works to stand with the poor and hurting, planting seeds of social change.

Founded 1973

Faiths represented on leadership group or Board: Evangelical Lutheran, Unitarian Universalist, Catholic, Covenant, UCC, United Methodist, American Baptist, Jewish.

Significant population increases among minority faiths in our area during the past 30 years: Baha'i, Wicca, Buddhism, Islam.

Program Areas. (*indicates area considered most effective.)

Dialogue /discussion groups

Education: tutor volunteers;

Public worship prayer, working for justice

Advocacy for religious freedom, hunger, ecology

Media: newsletter; web site

New interfaith activity: local farmer-food pantry connections; restorative justice-prisoner advocacy program.

Outreach:

Most consistent participants or audience: Christian protestants (mainstream, mostly)

Occasional participants: Catholic, Jewish, some evangelical Christians.

Would like to reach Buddhists, Muslims.

Participation by members of minority faiths has increased in programs during the life of our organization.

Other insights or concerns: "As the Call to Renewal Roundtable says, God calls us through the poor to work together. This understanding helps us work together inter-faith whenever possible."
(Mary Kay Baum, director)

Madison Interfaith Dialogue

c/o George Hinger,

3201 Churchill Dr.

Madison, WI 53713

Organization:

A local interfaith group, founded 1987

Purpose: to facilitate dialogue between members of various world religions and sharing of personal faith journeys and expression of worship services.

Significant population increases among minority faiths in our area during the past 30 years:
Tibetan Buddhist, Hindus, Muslims

Program Areas. (*indicates area considered most effective.)

* Dialogue or discussion groups

Worship and prayer.

Outreach:

Most consistent participants or audience: Christian, Buddhist, Baha'i, Unitarian, Jewish

Would like to reach: Muslims.

Mall Area Religious Council (MARC)

300 East 77th St.

Richfield, MN 55423

Ministry location: Mall of America, Bloomington, MN USA

Tel. 612 831-047; or 612 884-5129

Email: JohnMchell@aol.com or dkrueger@piper.hamline.edu

Web sites: <http://www.interfaithcalendar.org> or <http://meaningstore.org> or <http://interfaithcalendar.org/Books.htm>

Organization:

MARC is a local non-profit interfaith religious council founded in 1987. It has become a consortium of twenty five world religion organizations and congregations that share a vision of spiritual presence in the commercial marketplace of the Mall of America. Its purpose is to provide a spiritual presence embodying the values of understanding, community, dignity, respect and peace. To provide educational experiences, services, and products which enable people to explore spiritual meaning in their lives. To provide opportunities for interfaith dialogue, study and conversation in congregations, at the Mall of America and between persons of differing cultures and traditions.

To provide accurate information about world religions and local religious and community services. To model interfaith cooperation, and to provide opportunities for contemplation and reflection at the Mall of America.

Program Areas.

MARC's main activity has been promoting and organizing the business plan for a kiosk (cart) at the Mall of America, to be opened in 1999. Called Oasis, it will provide a safe and hospitable place for exploration and discovery , unique "spiritual" gifts representing the religions of the world, information on local congregations, interfaith calendars, internet access to world religions, books and greeting cards, and apparel using religious themes.

Recent interfaith activity: The Fifth Annual Holy Days and Holidays Display, a 4-day interfaith exhibit and celebration featuring a panorama of world religions offering expressions of thanksgiving; volunteers reflected the cultural and religious mix of Minnesota, its congregations

Outreach:

Most consistent participants in planning and outreach: Baha'i, Buddhism, Christians, Friends, Islam, Native Americans, Parliament of World's Religions, Baptist, Catholic, Christian Science, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, Unitarian Universalist, Unity.

There have been significant population increases among minority faiths in our area during the

past 30 years as well as among the 40 million annual visitors to the Mall of America.

Other insights: "There cannot be peace in the world until there is growing harmony and understanding among people of world religions, beginning in local communities. The people in our neighborhoods are often ahead of the religious leadership in desiring practical opportunities for dialogue and understanding of their neighbors' faith and world religions. People of all faiths working together significantly will be a major goal and task of religion in the 20th century. The marketplace will become a consequential arena for this development through interfaith ministries such as the Mall Area Religious Council–MARC." (John M. Chell)

Marin Interfaith Council

650 Las Gallinas Ave.

San Rafael, CA 94903-3602

Tel. 415 492-1052 / fax: 415 492-8907 / email: faiths@peacenet.org

Organizational History, Purpose, and Leadership:

Purpose: The Marin Interfaith Council is a respectful collaborative–celebrating faith traditions, advocating justice and building community.

Year founded: 1982

Faiths represented on leadership group or Board: Christian, Mormon, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Unitarian

Significant population increases among minority faiths in our area during the past 30 years: Jewish, Baha'i , Buddhist.

Participation by members of minority faiths has increased during the life of our organization.

Attitudes toward "other" faiths have changed during this time: "Without understanding, differences create fear. With understanding, differences enrich life." (from Strategic Plan)

Program Areas.

Dialogue/discussion groups.

Earth Day Celebration

Affiliation with 33 human service agencies.

A recent interfaith program or activity: First Marin Interfaith Prayer Breakfast on the National Day of Prayer. One hundred fifty people gathered to place prayers into a prayer bowl, contemplative prayer service from eight different traditions, eat breakfast together, and listen to a speaker on the future of religion.

New interfaith initiatives anticipated: An Interfaith Women's Conference; Interfaith Vigils Against Hate Violence; A Conference on Compassion on HIV Disease.

Outreach:

Most consistent participants or audience: Christians, Jews, Buddhists, Baha'i's, Quakers, Unitarians, Muslims.

Other occasional participants: People not affiliated with a faith.

Would like to reach, but haven't yet: Native Americans; conservative Christian churches.

Minnesota Food Share

PO Box 7509 Minneapolis, MN 55407-0509

612 721-8687 / fax: 612 722-8669 / email: MFSMorton@aol.com

Web site: www.gmcc.org/MFS

Organization:

Founded in 1982, MFS, an interfaith collaboration, achieves solutions to hunger through community action.

Faiths represented on leadership group or Board: Protestant, Catholic, Jewish

Significant population increases among minority faiths in our area: Muslim and Buddhist

Changing attitudes toward "other" faiths during this time: The Council of Sponsors (board) is discussing whether and how to approach other faith traditions.

Program Areas

Education: workshops; distribution of materials

Advocacy on hunger

Inter-institutional relationships and consultations,

Media: newsletter or other publications; radio or TV broadcast; web site

Direct Services: emergency food support and community organizing (faith-based)

New interfaith initiatives anticipated: Community initiatives: Creating food and economic security where staff will work with local communities (rural and urban) to develop collaborations and leadership in local communities to address hunger and poverty in their local areas.

Outreach: Most consistent participants or audience: Jewish and Christian

Network of Religious Communities

1272 Delaware Avenue

Buffalo, New York 14209

Tel. 716 882-4793 / wnyfaiths@aol.com / www.ReligiousNet.org

Organizational History, Purpose, and Leadership:

Purpose: To facilitate communication and increased understanding among the members and between the members and the wider community; to foster cooperation within and between the faith communities to which the members belong; to facilitate collaboration in areas of common concern and in response to needs in the wider community; and 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.

Year founded: 1857. On January 1, 1999 the Buffalo Area Metropolitan Ministries and the Buffalo Area Council of Churches merged to form the Network of Religious Communities.

Faiths represented on leadership Board: Various Protestant and Catholic Christians, ,Baha'i, Unitarian Universalist, Judaism, Hinduism

Program Areas. (*indicates area considered most effective.)

Dialogue /discussion groups

Education: classes; workshops

Public events: conferences; worship or prayer

Advocacy: religious freedom; peace; hunger;

Inter-institutional relationships, consultations, or representation

Media: publications; broadcast radio and TV programs; web site

Recent interfaith activities: Common Ground: discovering ways for persons who are divided over moral and social policy issues (e.g. abortion) to join hands across the divide to work in common concern. Food Pantry and Food for All: Finding and Implementing solutions to the problem of hunger in western New York through direct service, education, outreach and advocacy. (Many other activities.)

New interfaith initiatives anticipated: Regional Interreligious Conversation, engaging area congregations in dialogue across the geographic, racial and religious barriers that divide us.

Outreach:

Occasional participants: Muslims, Buddhists, Native Americans

Would like to reach: Sufis

Significant population increases among minority faiths in our area during the past 30 years: Muslims, Buddhists. Participation by members of minority faiths has increased.

Changing attitudes toward "other" faiths during this time: better understanding and cooperation

Other concerns: Interfaith marriages — how can couples maintain their religion and culture? How can clergy best participate in these ceremonies? And, How to conduct a multi-religious prayer service.

Troy Area United Ministries

17 1st St.

Troy, NY 12180

Tel. 518 274-5920 / fax: 518 271-1909 / email: TAUM@CRISNY.ORG

Organizational History, Purpose, and Leadership:

Purpose: An ecumenical association of Christian congregations joined with persons of all faiths and backgrounds to perform, sponsor and encourage both social and pastoral ministries. Rooted in Judeo-Christian heritage and biblical imperatives for mission and service, we seek to: promote

a more abundant life for the people in the area; do together what we cannot do separately, take initiatives that enhance our united witness; and serve as a means of developing common efforts.

Year founded: 1986

Faiths in leadership group: Various Christian denominations, including African-American.

Significant population increases among minority faiths: Muslim

Program Areas (relatively few are interfaith)

Worship or prayer, such as Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; Community Dispute Settlement; Nursing Home Ministry; Ecumenical and Interfaith programs; CROP Walk; Community Relations Forums.

Outreach

Occasional participants other than Christian: Jewish in some programs on some occasions.

Other insights or concerns: "As an ecumenical organization we both involve and work collaboratively with Jewish congregations (Reform and Conservative). Individuals come to functions or support TAUM monetarily."

Tulsa Metropolitan Ministry

221 S. Nagales

Tulsa, OK 74127

Tel. 918 582-3147 / fax 918 582-3159 / www.TUMM.org

Organizational History, Purpose, and Leadership:

Purpose: To bring the interfaith and ecumenical communities together for understanding and cooperation.

Year founded: 1937-Ecumenical; 1971-Interfaith

Faiths represented on leadership group or Board: Christian traditions, Jewish, Unitarian, Muslim

Significant population increases among minority faiths in our area during the past 30 years: Muslim, Interdenominational

Changing attitudes toward "other" faiths during this time: There is a greater willingness to let each group speak for itself in designing and using sources of inspiration for the purpose of belonging to and living out the organization's purposes. A reorganization of structure and purpose helps us be more inclusive.

Program Areas

Dialogue/discussion groups

Education: workshops; distribution of materials

Public events: conferences; worship/prayer together

Advocacy for religious freedom; peace; hunger; ecology; justice systems, jobs

Inter-institutional relationships, consultations; in civic and business arenas

Media: newsletter, other publications; TV broadcast; web site

New interfaith initiatives anticipated: An interfaith tour to Israel in May 2000 with planning and participation from Muslim, Jewish and various Christian traditions.

Outreach: Most consistent participants: Christian traditions, Jewish, Unitarian, Muslim

Occasional participants: S. Baptists, Independent, Interdenominational, Buddhist, Hindu

Would you like to reach: Independent groups and Christian ministries.

Participation by members of minority faiths has increased in programs and leadership.

Other insights or concerns: "What does it mean to "pray together" and to speak with one voice in the public square? And how do we bring about dialogue with the extreme right/left wing groups in any of our faith traditions?" (Sister Sylvia Schmidt, Exec. Director)

Vietnamese Interfaith Council

1608 Smiley Heights Dr.

Redlands, CA 92373

Tel. 909 793-3006 / Fax: 909 793-9207 / email: HumB630@aol.com

(Based on correspondence with coordinator, Mr. Hum Bui, not a survey.)

The Vietnamese Interfaith Council was established in 1992 when all Vietnamese religions gathered at Rome for the praying ceremony for peace for Vietnam. It has five Vietnamese main religions: Catholicism, Protestant, Buddhism, Hoa Hao Buddhism, and CaoDai. There are two councils in California. The Council participates in various religious activities of all religions and helps the Vietnamese in Vietnam to fight for religious freedom and human rights. Because of some language barriers, the religious activities have been limited to the Vietnamese community.

Type B: Central office or organizational structure of a network, national or international interfaith organization

Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions (CPWR)

PO Box 1630

Chicago, IL 60690-1630

Tel. 312 629-2990 / 312 629-2991 / email: 99info@cpwr.org

Web site: www.cpwr.org

(information drawn from publicity; no survey provided)

(CPWR was formed in the late '80s to commemorate the 1893 World Parliament of Religions with a new Parliament in 1993. Approximately 8000 people from all over the world came together to celebrate diversity and harmony and to explore religious and spiritual responses to the critical issues that confront us all.

Building on its success, the CPWR has also developed an effective Metropolitan Initiative that brings together the numerous religious communities in the Chicago area for dialogue and cooperation regarding issues and responses to them.

In 1999, the powerful Parliament movement will take a dramatic step forward, convening in Cape Town, South Africa, with the headline: **A New Day Dawning: Spiritual Yearnings and Sacred Possibilities**. A new document based on the Declaration "Toward a Global Ethic," has been developed for the 1999 Parliament. Titled "A Call to Our Guiding Institutions," this document is designed to explore the major issues and ethical responses to them with the institutions most able to address them—Religion, Governance, the Marketplace, Education, the Media, and Civil Society.

Interfaith Community Ministry Network

14727 Rio Pinar

Houston, TX 77095

Tel. 281 463-2282

Fax. 281 463-2144

Email: icmn@neosoft.com

Web site: www.neosoft.com/~icmn

Organizational History, Purpose, and Leadership:

ICMN is a national network of community ministries—ecumenical and interfaith—created to provide a link for mutual support, leadership development and promotion of community-based, cooperative ministries.

Purpose: To build a strong national network of grassroots service and advocacy ministries; to support member ministries through a wide array of training and conference opportunities; to keep member ministries and others informed about community ministry issues and concerns through effective communications; to build a national movement to educate the public and to address regional and national public policy issues.

Program Areas. (*indicates area considered most effective.)

The Network provides connections and relationships among community ministries, communications and issue analysis, training and organizational development, conferences, consultations and resources for community ministry.

The individual organizations with the Network provide direct services such as meals on wheels, housing, rent and utility assistance, social services, AIDS ministry, tutoring, child and teen services, parent support, adult day care, race relations, residential treatment, welfare-to-work assistance, employment training and education.

Outreach: Both the clients and the 120 member organizations include individuals from various faith communities.

International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF)

576 Fifth Avenue, #1103

New York, NY 10036

(Information drawn from publicity, not based on a survey)

Tel. 212 843-9493 / or 617 876-3059 / email: iarfna@nywork2.undp.org

Organized in 1900, IARF is a world community of religious organizations that includes 83 member groups and individuals in 25 countries, speaking more than 20 languages and representing all major faith traditions from every continent. One of the goals of IARF is to facilitate open and respectful interfaith dialogue and to provide programming and activities promoting a broader view of religious tolerance and understanding, especially in areas of conflict.

IARF held its Triennial Congress in late July/early August, 1999, in Vancouver, British Columbia.

National Association of Ecumenical and Interreligious Staff

8617 105th St.

Richmond Hill, NY 11418-1597

Tel. 718 847-6764

(Information based on organizational documents and narratives, not survey.)

Purpose:

This Association is a professional organization, established to provide creative relationships among persons serving professionally in ecumenical and interfaith organizations as well as in ecumenical and interreligious offices in denominations. Further, its purpose is to equip members to deal with critical issues and mutual concerns in their organizations and communities by encouraging mutual support and personal and professional growth.

Faiths represented on leadership group or Board: Come from traditions in the membership; most are Christian (from ecumenical organizations) but membership is slowly growing to include others.

Changing attitudes toward "other" faiths during this time: This organization grew out of staff from the National Council of Churches of Christ. It now has members who are from faiths other than Christian, working in interfaith organizations.

Program Areas:

Mobilize the creative energies of ecumenical and interreligious staff for reflecting on critical concerns, devising strategies for addressing those concerns, mobilizing resources for achieving results, and enriching fellowship.

Develop standards and guidelines for identifying and responding to those concerns.

Arrange an annual conference.

Provide communications for these activities.

Recruit personnel.

Outreach:

Most consistent participants or audience: Christians, Jews

Participation by members of minority faiths has increased just a bit during the life of this organization.

National Conference for Community and Justice

71 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1100

New York, NY 10003

(information compiled from publicity; is not based on a survey)

Tel. 212 206-0006

Founded in 1927 as the National Conference of Christians and Jews to resolve strained relationships between Christians and Jews, this human relations organization "promotes understanding and respect among all races, religions and cultures through advocacy, conflict resolution and education."

The organization serves more than 60 communities in the United States with regional offices and staff, program support, and publications. Its work serves Muslims, Native Americans and, in some communities, as many as 13 different faith communities. NC staff are also working closely

with the national discussions on religion and the first amendment, especially in public schools.

North American Interfaith Network (NAIN)

c/o Dr. Peter Laurence, Chair

512 Bedford Road

Armonk, NY 10504 USA

(Information drawn from publicity, not from survey)

Tel. 914 273-8922

Established in the mid-late 80s.

NAIN is a non-profit association with a membership of approximately 60 faith and interfaith organizations and agencies. Its mission is to build communication and mutual understanding among interfaith organizations and diverse religious groups throughout North America.

The Board brings together persons from the United States and Canada, representing all major religious traditions and many member interfaith organizations.

NAIN has no office and does no programming other than networking and communications. NAIN has an annual conference, held at Chautauqua, NY in 1999; it publishes a semi-annual newsletter—NAINews & Interfaith Digest—and offers a web site: www.nain.org

The Temple of Understanding

720 Fifth Ave. 16th Floor

New York, NY 10019 USA

Tel. 212 246-2746

The Thanks-Giving Foundation

P.O. Box 1770

Dallas, TX 75221

Tel. 214 969-1977 / fax 214 754-0152 / www.thanksgiving.org

Organizational Purpose, and Leadership

Purpose: -- to witness, to celebrate, and to promote the value and spirit of thanksgiving for both sacred and secular cultures throughout the world.

Faiths represented on leadership group or Board: Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Sikh, Baha'i, American Indian, Jain

Significant population increases among minority faiths in our area: Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim

Changing attitudes toward "other" faiths during this time: Through study and understanding of Thanksgiving as a basis for dialogue, respect and appreciation of diversity has increased, and unity in diversity has been discovered.

Program Areas. (*indicates area considered most effective.)

* Dialogue/discussion groups

Education: workshops; distribution of materials; *seminars

Public events: conferences; worship/prayer

Inter-institutional relationships, consultations, or representation

Media: publications; web site

New interfaith initiatives anticipated: Publication of material re: 2000: The International Year of Thanksgiving.

Outreach:

Participants or audiences include: Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Sikh, Baha'i, American Indian, Jain. We'd like to reach all of the above in greater numbers.

Other insights or concerns: "Dialogue inspires advocacy (or it is mere talk). Advocacy relies on dialogue (or it bottoms out). We should explore this relationship more. " (Elizabeth Espersen)

United Religions Initiative

PO Box 29242

San Francisco, CA 94129-0242 USA

Tel. 415 561-2300 / fax 415 561-2313 / email: office@united-religions.org

Web site: www.united-religions.org

(no survey provided)

Purpose (draft): The Initiative is working to build a United Religions organization, whose purpose is to create a safe space for spiritual partnerships in which the people of the world pursue justice, healing and peace, with reverence for all life.

World Conference on Religion and Peace

777 United Nations Plaza,

New York, NY 10017

Tel. 212 687-2163

(no survey provided)

WCRP was founded in 1970 to mobilize the world's religions to cooperate against threats to the human family. A global organization, WCRP has over 30 national chapters and members in more than 100 countries. Its members are representative of twelve of the world's largest religious communities.

Type C: A chapter or affiliate of a national or international ecumenical or inter-religious body or network.

Interfaith Council of Greater Richmond

PO Box 25801

Richmond, VA 23261-5801

Tel. 804 782-6860 / email: jpbruckner@msn.com

Web site: www.icgr.org

Organizational History, Purpose, and Leadership:

Purpose: To build better relationships among races, religions and nationalities; to eliminate prejudice; to interpret the needs of our community to representative groups so as to coordinate efforts to eliminate crime, poverty and disease.

Year founded: 1929

Affiliate of International Association for Religious Freedom

Faiths represented on leadership group or Board: Baha'i, Buddhism, Christianity, Eckankar, Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Judaism, Sikhism, Unitarian Universalist.

Significant population increases among minority faiths in our area during the past 30 years: Baha'i, Buddhism, Eckankar, Hinduism, Jainism, Judaism, Sikhism, Latter Day Saints.

Program Areas

Education: distribution of materials; lectures

Public events: Youth Awards

Advocacy: religious freedom; hunger; community service

Inter-institutional relationships and representation at Community Service Organizations

Media: web site, print media

Description of a recent interfaith program or activity: The Annual Awards Ceremony honoring 43 outstanding high school students that demonstrated qualities of leadership and service.

New interfaith initiatives anticipated: A youth mission focusing on helping young people in correctional homes and Ronald MacDonal House.

Outreach:

Most consistent participants or audience: Usually, members of all faith groups participate equally.

Other occasional participants: local government, schools, community service

Would like to reach, but haven't yet: Additional congregations and religious organizations.

Participation by members of minority faiths has increased during the life of our organization.

Changing attitudes toward "other" faiths during this time: Some faith groups have become more open and understanding toward each other, while others became less active and drew back somewhat.

Other insights or concerns: "Interfaith activities could be greatly enhanced if they would be endorsed, encouraged and supported by the religious leaders of the various faith communities."
(John P. Bruckner)

Type D: Interfaith office or agency of a single faith community

Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University

(In North America, contact :)

Global Harmony House,

46 S. Middle Neck Rd

Great Neck, NY 11021

Tel. 516 773-0971

URL: www.bkwsu.com

Email: newyork@bksu.com or chicago@bkwsu.com

Organizational History, Purpose, and Leadership:

The World Spiritual University was founded in 1936 in Karachi by Brahma Baba, to bring into reality his vision of people of all cultural, economic and religious backgrounds coming together to rediscover and develop the spiritual dimension of their lives. Based in Mt. Abu, India, there are now approximately 3500 branches in over 70 countries. Brahma Kumaris respond worldwide to opportunities to work together with others in interfaith activities and other projects designed to create a better world, where people may live in peace and harmony.

International projects:

The Million Minutes of Peace: In 1986, the project gathered commitments from over 86 countries for more than one billion minutes of peace in the form of prayer, meditation and positive thoughts.

Global Cooperation for a Better World: The hopes and visions of hundreds of thousands of people in 129 countries were synthesized into The Global Vision Statement.

Living Values: An Educational Program identified 12 universal core values and published them as the central focus of "Living Values: A Guidebook." A "Living Values Educators Kit is being piloted in 57 countries in consultation with UNICEF, UNESCO and the Brahma Kumaris.

Working with Faith Communities:

For over 20 years, the University has supported the work of inter-religious dialogue through service on local interfaith organizations, hosting and assisting with local activities, and taking part in events such as the Parliament of the World's Religions. Representatives of the University are members of the Advisory Committee of the International Interfaith Centre in Oxford.

Mother's Trust / Mother's Place

6676 122nd Avenue

Ganges, MI 49408

616 543-4764 / email mtrust@accn.org

(Information based on organizational documents and narratives, not survey.)

Organization:

Founded in the early nineties, but formally dedicated in 1998, Mother's Trust/Mother's Place is a non-profit ecclesiastical corporation. An educational center for interfaith study and dialogue, and a community of religious persons committed to working together for the common needs of people from various faiths and religions.

Faiths represented on leadership group: a community of monks, nuns and lay members following our own individual traditions and faiths. The core group is primarily Hindu/Vedanta; projects may have Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Buddhist and other participants as well.

Program Areas.

Dialogue/discussion groups

Education: classes; workshops; distribution of materials; presentations for practical and spiritual solutions for conflict, injustice, grief and other social concerns.

Public events: conferences; worship or prayer; lectures

New interfaith initiatives: Weekly Spiritual Explorations through Sunday morning meditations and explorations into universal spiritual practices, with guest presentations as well.

Outreach:

Most consistent participants or audience: Vedanta (Hindu) , Christians

Occasional participants: Buddhists, Muslims, Native Americans, Jews

**National Conference of Catholic Bishops,
Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs**

3211 Fourth St., NE

Washington DC 20017

Tel : 202 541-3020

Fax: 202 541-3183

Web site : www.nccbuscc.org

Organizational History, Purpose, and Leadership:

Purpose: To promote ecumenical and interreligious relations. The Secretariat office provides the staff for the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, whose membership is all Catholic Bishops of the USA.

Year founded: 1964

Faiths represented on leadership group or Board: Christian (Catholic Bishop's Committee for Ec. And Interreligious Affairs)

Responding in part to the significant population increases among minority faiths in the USA during the past 30 years.

Changing attitudes toward "other" faiths during this time: Yes, per developments after Vatican II.

Program Areas.

Dialogue and Education; theological considerations.

Participation in public events;

Inter-institutional relationships and consultations.

New interfaith initiatives anticipated for the next year or two: Consultation on the spirituality of interreligious dialogue.

Outreach:

Bi-lateral and multi-lateral dialogues with Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, Jews.

National Council of Churches, Interfaith Relations Office

475 Riverside Dr., Rm. 870,

New York, NY 10115

Tel. 212 870-2560 / fax 212 870-2158 / email: jayr@nccusa.org

Web site: www.nccusa.org

Organizational History, Purpose, and Leadership

Purpose: To strengthen relations between Christians and people of other religions in America and to provide resources and theological reflection and education for Christians in reference to this area.

Year founded: 1973

Faiths represented on leadership group or Board: Christians; NCC is a representative body for member Christians.

All faiths have shown significant population increases in the USA during the past 30 years.

Attitudes toward "other" faiths have changed during this time. There is more openness to meet, more questions, and more desire for reflection.

Program Areas

Dialogue /discussion groups

Education: workshops; distribution of materials

Public events: conferences

Advocacy: religious freedom; peace; hunger; ecology

Inter-institutional relationships, consultations, or representation

New interfaith initiatives: Regional Christian-Buddhist consultations.

Outreach

Most consistent participants: Christians

Others participate occasionally in some mutually planned dialogues.

Other insights or concerns: "Attention needs to be given to ways people of all religious communities can have a role in the shaping of our communities in all of their aspects." (Jay Rock)

World Council of Churches (USA Office)

475 Riverside Dr., Room 915

New York, NY 10115 USA

Tel. 212 870-3193 / Fax: 212-870-2528 / email: WorldCounc@mail.wcc-coe.org

Website: www.wcc-coe.org

(No survey provided)

WCC is an international Christian ecumenical organization based in Geneva with offices in other countries. WCC supports and participates in interfaith dialogue and has done considerable work to understand theological questions about relationships with other religions.

Publications: Books, newsletter, web-site, ecumenical news.

Type E: Academic or Educational: campus ministry; institutes; foundations

Center for Interreligious Understanding

Ramapo College of New Jersey

505 Ramapo Valley Rd.

Mahwah, New Jersey 07430-1680

Tel 201 529-6648

Fax 201 529-6671

Email: CIU@ramapo.edu

Web site: www.ramapo.edu

Organizational History, Purpose, and Leadership:

Purpose: Fosters understanding of the traditions, history, and interrelationships between and among the major religious faiths. The CIU is dedicated to fostering interaction and communications amongst all members of the world's religions, leading to new bonds between religious groups and an ability to work together toward peaceful coexistence. Based at an academic institution, it also seeks to explore and understand the philosophical and theological presuppositions upon which religions are based.

Faiths represented on leadership group or Board: Christian, Jewish.

Program Areas.

Dialogue and consultations with leaders of world's great religions

Education: classes; seminars, lectures.

Public conferences on Christian-Jewish relations

Media: newsletter and publications on theological issues

Research for scholars, clergy, teachers and religious educators

Recent programs: The Inaugural Lecture Series sponsored a Protestant theologian (Rev. Philip Devenish) and a philosopher (Dr. Stephen Toulmin) on the topic "Worthy of Belief: Truth in Interreligious Dialogue." On another occasion, Dr. Hans Ucko, Secretary for Interreligious Relations at the World Council of Churches spoke on "The Future of Religion and Religions."

Outreach: To students at Ramapo College who come from more than 50 countries, and to the

diverse religious community in northern New Jersey.

Centre for Studies in Religion and Society

University of Victoria

SED B102, PO Box 1700 STN CSC

Victoria BC V8W 2Y2 CANADA

Tel: 250 721-6325

Fax: 250 721-6234

Email: csrs@uvic.ca

Web site: <http://web.uvic.ca/csrs/>

Organization:

Purpose: Research in areas in which religion meets society and/or science: Dialogue, interdisciplinary studies, Interfaith study and work.

Year founded: 1991

Faiths represented on leadership group or Board: Daoism, Christian, Sikhism, Aboriginal, Muslim, Hinduism, Judaism

Significant population increases among minority faiths in our area during the past 30 years: Muslim, Sikhism

Leadership participation by members of minority faiths has increased during the life of our organization.

Changing attitudes toward "other" faiths during this time: Understanding and acceptance have moved us beyond ecumenism through multi-faith to a helpful form of interfaith.

Program Areas.

Dialogue/discussion groups

Education: classes

Public events: conferences

Media: newsletter and other publications,; web site

Recent interfaith activities: A substantial program of Fellows in Residence, with a Distinguished Speakers Series and a Fellows Lecture series. CSRS also sponsors Research Projects such as "Just Fish: Ethics in the Canadian Coastal Fisheries;" "The Spiritual Roots of Restorative Justice.;" and "Religion and Peace-Making."

New interfaith initiatives anticipated: Research projects on Ethics, justice, intercultural effects.

Outreach: Most consistent participants: Christian, Eastern faiths.

Insights or concerns: Our hope is that the results of our research will inform the various aspects of society, academe, and governance as they face the necessities of the future.

Education as Transformation Project

Tel. 781 283-2659

Fax 781 283-3676

Email: transformation@bulletin.wellesley.edu

Organizational History, Purpose, and Leadership:

Purpose: To help colleges and universities explore the impact of religious diversity and the role of spirituality on their campuses.

Year founded: 1996

Faiths represented on Advisory Board: Most major faith groups

Program Areas.

Education: workshops; distribution of materials; consulting

Public events: conferences

Inter-institutional relationships, consultations

Media: E-newsletter, other publications, web site

New interfaith initiatives anticipated: Book, video, and other resource materials published; consulting program implemented; international outreach initiated.

Insights or concerns: Issues of representation will become an increasing concern as religious groups continue to fragment and individuals search for a spirituality that is not divisive.

E Pluribus Unum Project

6101 Montrose Rd., Ste. 200

Rockville, MD 20852

Tel. 301-770-5070 / Fax: 301-770-6365 / web: www.epluribusunum.org

(not based on survey; compiled from promotional information)

Began in 1997; a Project sponsored by The Washington Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values, in cooperation with National Council of Churches of Christ, USA, and National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry.

An opportunity for 60 students from around the nation (Jewish, Catholic, Protestant) to explore how their religious values interact with public policy and civic engagement. For three weeks each summer, these students gather in Washington, DC to explore how their religious traditions deal with questions of social justice and the common good. E Pluribus Unum — "Out of the Many, One" — the USA's motto, embodies how in the midst of diversity, American people of faith can find common ground for the common good. The youth project includes an academic track, community life together, spiritual arts and worship, and volunteer service.

E Pluribus Unum project also offers One-Day Professional Development Seminar for Educators, Clergy, Diocesan Directors, and Youth Service Workers.

Partners in Dialogue

Dept. of Religious Studies

University of South Carolina

Columbia, SC 29208

803 777-4522 / fax: 803 777-0213 / email: evans-carl@SC.edu

Web site: <http://www.cla.sc.edu/relg/partners.html>

Organizational History, Purpose, and Leadership:

Purpose: To promote understanding and cooperation between the faith groups in South Carolina. Partners in Dialogue is an interfaith community service project of the Department of Religious Studies at the University of South Carolina.

Year founded: 1992

Faiths represented on leadership group or Board: Baha'is, Buddhists, Christians, Jews, Hindus, Muslims, Native American, Unitarian Universalist, Sikh. (Native American and Sikh representation has been added in recent years.)

Significant population increases among minority faiths in our area during the past 30 years: Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim, Baha'i, Sikh.

Attitudes toward "other" faiths have changed during this time. The groups have developed respect and appreciation for each others' spiritual traditions and practices.

Program Areas. (*indicates area considered most effective.)

* Dialogue or discussion groups

Education: workshops

Public events: conferences; worship together

Advocacy: religious freedom; peace

Media: broadcast

Description of a recent interfaith program or activity: Sponsored the 1997 Conference of the North American Interfaith Network

New interfaith initiatives anticipated:

Outreach:

Most consistent participants: Hindu and Baha'is

Which others participate occasionally in your programs? We network with the South Carolina Christian Action Council

Would like to reach, but haven't yet: Evangelical and more mainline Christians

Participation by members of minority faiths has increased in programs and in leadership.

Other insights or concerns: "Minority religious groups have been participants in interfaith

activities more readily than majority groups. Our challenge is to engage those majority groups that have been here a long time and, for whatever reasons, do not perceive the new groups as important faith partners." (Carl Evans)

Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies

CSSR Executive Office

Valparaiso University

Valparaiso, IN 46393-6493

(no survey provided)

This society offers academic scholarship, international fellowship, experiential practice and supportive learning for those with an interest in one or both of the religious communities it serves. Conferences every three years, an annual Journal and a newsletter are among the benefits of membership (\$30.00).

Type F: Media presenting multiple religious traditions and the relationships among them

Odyssey: A Hallmark & Henson Network

c/o Rev. Bob Bonnot

12700 Ventura Blvd, Ste. 200

Studio City, CA 91604-2469

Tel. 818 755-2400 / fax 818 755-2614 /

email: bbonnot@odysseyhcn.com

Web site: www.odysseychannel.com

Organizational History, Purpose, and Leadership:

Purpose: To enrich the lives of families and individuals with programming that empowers,

entertains, explores and inspires. Odyssey will explore life's journey with a mix of values-based family-oriented and religious programming.

Year founded: 1988

Faiths represented on leadership group or Board: 80 national faith groups: Protestant, Catholic, Orthodox, Evangelical, Jewish, Pentecostal, Unitarian, Latter Day Saints

Changing attitudes toward "other" faiths during this time: Increased leadership participation by minority faiths; more openness to inclusion of religions outside the Jewish and Christian traditions.

Program Areas

Media: Cable TV broadcast; web site

Odyssey is committed to keeping faith visible on television by providing a minimum of 40 hours per week of faith and values-based programming. Odyssey is the only network in the USA that offers communities local insertion opportunities.

New interfaith initiatives anticipated: Premier of series on Judaism and Religions of the World in Fall '99.

Outreach: Our audience is a cross-section of faith communities.

Other insights or concerns: Interfaith relations that are positive are essential.

Tri-State Media Ministry

74 Trinity Place

New York, NY 10006-2083

Tel. 212 425-4787 / fax: same / planned

Organizational History, Purpose, and Leadership:

Purpose: To advocate public service religious broadcasting and to guide or assist churches to understand new media and utilize them as communication aids.

Year founded: 1974

Faiths represented on leadership group or Board: All protestant Christian

Significant population increases among minority faiths in our area during the past 30 years: Buddhism, Islam and others.

Program Areas. (*indicates area considered most effective.)

Education: workshops

* Media: broadcast

New initiatives: stabilization of the organization.

Outreach:

Most consistent participants: Protestant, Catholic, Jewish

Others occasional participants: Hindu, Muslim, others; we have access to all if the invitation is for a broadcast appearance.

Other insights or concerns: "We must learn to be wholly forthcoming about our own faith while affirming the reality of other faiths. With recognition that no one has the corner on truth!"
(Reuben Gums)

VISION TV

80 Bond Street

Toronto, Ontario M5B 1X2 CANADA

Web site: www.visiontv.ca

(no survey provided)

This non-profit, interfaith cable television station recently celebrated its 10th year of community- and religion-oriented programming. Both its leadership Board and its staff are drawn from numerous faith communities in Canada.

VISION TV offers some programming that is faith specific, produced by 75 faith group and broadcast partners (though no fund-raising or "bashing" is allowed); other programs that it produces or purchases deal with broad issues of spiritual concern that reflect VISION's value base.

Type G: Centers for spirituality, holistic health, adult education

SHEM Center for Interfaith Spirituality

Box 1432

Oak Park, IL 60304-0432

Tel: 708-788-2460 / email: josephshem@aol.com /

Web site: <http://www.members.aol/SHEMcenter>

(compiled from newsletter, not based on survey)

Founding Director, Joseph Kilegeice, O.P.

"Shem is an Aramaic word expressing the radiance, splendor and beauty of the Creator found in all people and in all creation."

Program: workshops, concerts, dialogue, bookstore.