

What is the Network of Religious Communities?

net-work (net wûrk) n.

1. An extended group of people with similar interests or concerns who interact and remain in informal contact for mutual assistance or support.
2. A net like combination, interconnecting, interlacing.

of (uv, ðv when unstressed) prep.

1. Derived or coming from; originating at or from.
2. Caused by; resulting from.
3. From the total or group comprising.
4. Composed or made from.
5. Associated with or adhering to.
6. Belonging or connected to.

re-lig-ious (re lij us) adj.

1. Having or showing belief in and reverence for God or a deity.
2. Characterized by an adherence to religion, devout, pious, godly.
3. Of, concerned with, or teaching religion.

com-mu-ni-ties (kõ-myoon e teez) n., pl.

- 1.a. Groups of people living in the same locality and under the same government. b. The districts or localities in which such groups live.
2. Groups of people having common interests.
- 3.a. Similarity or identity. b. Sharing, participation, and fellowship.

MEMBERS OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Denominations/Faith Coordinating Bodies

American Muslim Council W.N.Y.
Baha'i Community
Buffalo District United Methodist Church
Buffalo, Rochester District AME Zion Church
Churches in Covenant: Disciples/UCC
Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints
Diocese of Buffalo Roman Catholic Church
Episcopal Diocese Western New York
Episcopal District AME Church
Hindu Cultural Center and Temple
Jewish Federation of Greater Buffalo
Mennonite Church
Presbytery of Western New York
Religious Society of Friends
Seik Society of Niagara Frontier
Unitarian Universalist Congregations
Upstate Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church

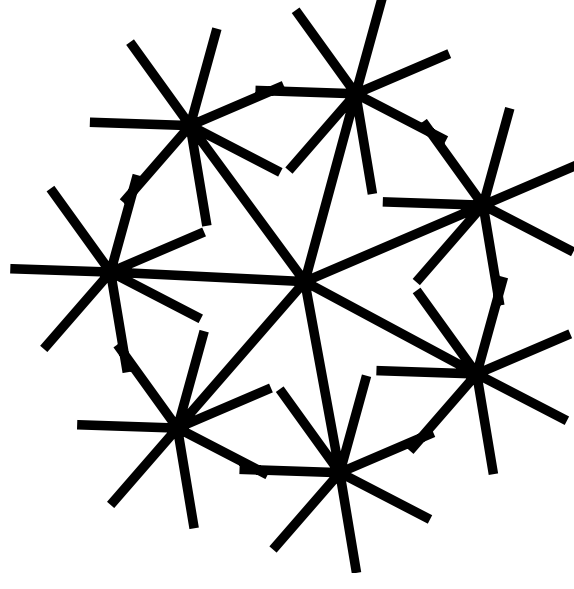
Religious Organizations:

African Methodist Ministers Alliance
American Jewish Committee
Association of Hispanic Pastors WNY
Buffalo Board of Rabbi
Church Women United
Council of Orthodox Christian Churches
Lockport Clergy Association
South Buffalo Ecumenical Association
Sisters of Mercy
Sisters of St. Francis (Stella Niagara)
Youngston/Lewiston Clergy

Congregations elected by Annual Assembly

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church
Calvary Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
Christian Church of East Aurora
Epiphany United Church of Christ
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Masjid Nu'Man
St Michael Archangel Polish National Catholic Church
New Hope Baptist Church
Pilgrim St. Luke United Church of Christ
Prince of Peace Temple Church of God in Christ
St Luke African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
St Philips Episcopal Church
Temple Beth Zion
True Bethel Baptist Church
Trinity United Methodist Church, Grand Island
Westminster Presbyterian Church

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Network of Religious Communities

is an organization of denominations/faith coordinating bodies, religious organizations and congregations located in Western New York and the Niagara Peninsula of Southern Ontario, Canada.

The purposes of the Network are to:

- *facilitate communication and increase understanding among the members and between the members and the wider community*
- *foster cooperation within and between the faith communities to which the members belong*
- *facilitate collaboration in areas of common concern and in response to needs in the wider community*
- *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*

The Network is not a religious community unto itself, rather a forum providing opportunities for cooperative ventures, the strengthening of our religious communities, and the betterment of the community as a whole. Religious communities are encouraged to develop links with similar faith communities for cooperative programming, the sharing of resources and mutual support.

The core beliefs and integrity of all religious communities are respected in all policy statements issued and actions taken in the name of the Network. Participants in the Network of Religious Communities are never expected to compromise their belief, rather to dialogue with persons from other faith communities from a perspective of humility and mutual respect.

The Network of Religious Communities is organized under a General Assembly and a Board of Governors, elected by the General Assembly. All members of the Network are members of the General Assembly and are entitled to vote annually for the congregations and religious organizations represented on the board.

Membership in the Network is open to congregations, denominations and religious organizations in Western New York and the Niagara Peninsula of Southern Ontario who subscribe to the purposes of the Network of Religious Communities and contribute toward its financial support.

Programs of the Network of Religious Communities

Church Women United: Enlisting church women in a movement across denominational lines; engaging in celebrations, service and study.

Food For All: Finding and implementing solutions to the problem of hunger in Western, New York through education, outreach and advocacy.

Food Pantry: Our emergency food pantry provided emergency food for over 17,000 hungry persons during 2001.

Interfaith Coalition on Energy: Assisting congregations and religious organizations to reduce the cost of their energy consumption.

Radio/TV Ministry: Currently the Network produces, with local congregation talent, five regular TV programs and four radio programs which are Broadcast over Buffalo area stations and cable systems.

Region-wide Interreligious Conversation: The Region-wide interreligious conversation engages area congregations in dialogue across the geographic, racial and religious barriers that divide us.

Scout Chaplains: Providing chaplains for Boy Scout and Cub Scout camping programs and events.

Riefler Enablement Fund: Providing annual grants to congregations and ecumenical/interreligious organizations attempting creative community ministries.

Ecumenical-Interreligious Activities

Multi-Faith Forum: a monthly luncheon series designed to address issues of social concern with a multi-religious vision.

The Annual Appreciation Dinner: An annual dinner at which "community saints" nominated by their congregations are honored for their service to their congregation and/or community.

Annual Yom Hashoah Commemoration Service: Interfaith Service in Remembrance of the Holocaust.

Common Ground: discovering ways for persons who are divided over moral and social policy issues to join hands across the divide of their differences to work in common concern.

Crop Walks: Sponsoring walks throughout Western New York to raise money to feed the hungry here and around the world.

InterFaith Aids Memorial Service: Annual Thanksgiving Service held for those who have died of Aids.

Interfaith /Intercultural Thanksgiving Service: An Annual Thanksgiving service held the Tuesday before Thanksgiving each year.

New Religious Leaders Luncheon: Introducing new religious leaders to our region, the religious community and essential resources.

OFFICERS AND STAFF OF NETWORK

Officers:

President, The Rev. Jeff Carter, 1999-2001
President elect: The Very Rev. Allen W. Farabee
Vice President, Ms. Marlene Glickman
Vice President, Rev. Dr. David McKee
Secretary, Ms Sheila Nickson
Treasurer, Ms. Eula Hooker

Staff:

Co-Executive Directors:

The Rev. Dr. G. Stanford Bratton D.Min.
The Rev. Francis X. Mazur

Other staff:

Communication Coordinator, Maureen Gensler
CWU & Office Coordinator, Sally Giordano
Financial Assistant, Bonnie Jehle
Food For All, Patricia Griffin, Director
Nutrition Outreach Coordinator: Kelly Kowalski
General Assistant, Wallace Benson