

## WHAT CAN I DO?

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Become a Member (no dues required), regularly attending the meetings and events. The monthly meetings serve as a place to bring new ideas that can be used to build on our mission. The Members are a loosely knit group with a deep commitment to pluralism and helping others understand our respective faith traditions. Our Leadership Team coordinates the planning of our events and service projects, and our publicity and publications.

We meet monthly (except in July and August) usually on the first Monday of the month (except in Sept., we meet on the second Monday). Our meetings are rotated among our houses of worship.

Involve your house of worship, so that it too can be a part of this movement to move beyond tolerance, to build peace at a local level. Or become a Friend and Supporter and attend our annual events. To get on the mailing list to learn more about our meetings and events, contact us at [troy.interfaith@gmail.com](mailto:troy.interfaith@gmail.com)

## PARTICIPATING FAITH COMMUNITIES

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Ahmadiyya Muslim Community  
Baha'i Community  
Reform Bahai Community  
Birmingham Unitarian Church  
Bharatiya Temple of Metro Detroit  
Big Beaver United Methodist Church  
Central Woodward Christian Church  
Congregation Shir Tikvah

Church of the Latter Day Saints  
Emerson Unitarian Universalist Church  
First Presbyterian Church of Troy  
Islamic Association of Greater Detroit  
Jain Society of Greater Detroit  
Northminster Presbyterian Church  
St. Stephens Roman Catholic Church  
St. Anastasia Roman Catholic Church  
St. Stephens Episcopal Church  
Troy First United Methodist Church  
Sikh Gurdwara of Rochester Hills  
**CONVENERS**

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*2005- June 2008*

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

*July 2008- 2011*

Rev. Charlotte Sommers,  
Northminster Presbyterian Church  
*Jan. 2012 – Present*

Rev. Bob Cornwall  
Central Woodward Christian Church

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

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

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## WHAT IS THE

## TROY-AREA INTERFAITH GROUP?

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### Our Mission...

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

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[www.troyinterfaithgroup.org](http://www.troyinterfaithgroup.org)



To contact us

[info@troyinterfaithgroup.org](mailto:info@troyinterfaithgroup.org)

or

[troy.interfaith@gmail.com](mailto:troy.interfaith@gmail.com)

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

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

\* pluralism as defined by Diana Eck at pluralism.org

## OUR ANNUAL EVENTS

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

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

**3. TIG Thanksgiving Celebration:** The Sunday before Thanksgiving we come together at a House of Worship to give thanks, and celebrate local stories of cooperation and understanding that typify the American Dream.

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

*– Co-Founder Michael Silverstein,  
Congregation Shir Tikvah*

## SERVING TOGETHER

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

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

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



*TIG Members serving breakfast at the 2008 Habitat Blitz Build.*

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

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

## WHAT ELSE WE HAVE DONE

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

*“Do unto others as you would have them do unto you’ is common ground for all of us.”*

*– Labyrinth Chair Ruth Turner,  
Northminster Presbyterian Church*

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

