

# **FORT COLLINS AREA INTERFAITH COUNCIL**



## **HANDBOOK**

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**[www.ftcollinsinterfaithcouncil.org](http://www.ftcollinsinterfaithcouncil.org)**

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**Membership Password: hideroster**

## **FORT COLLINS AREA INTERFAITH COUNCIL**



**MISSION STATEMENT:** Our mission is to address issues of community concern and to mobilize faith-based teamwork to respond to the basic human needs of every person in our community.  
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**Announcement: INTERFAITH DIALOGUE RADIO:  
Thursdays at 6 pm on KRFC 88.9 FM**

For information regarding this site, contact our webmaster.

**Please visit the website for updated calendars, member contact information, weekly bulletins and other current information.**

<b>January 2009</b>		
Thursday January 8	IFC Monthly Meeting 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Christ United Methodist Church <a href="#">301 E. Drake Rd</a> (226-2341)
Thursday January 22	IFC Monthly Meeting 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Christ United Methodist Church <a href="#">301 E. Drake Rd</a> (226-2341)
<b>February 2009</b>		
Thursday February 5	IFC Annual Meeting (potluck) 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Foothills Unitarian Universalist <a href="#">1815 Yorktown Ave</a> (493-5906)
Thursday February 19	IFC Monthly Meeting 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Foothills Unitarian Universalist <a href="#">1815 Yorktown Ave</a> (493-5906)
<b>March 2009</b>		
Thursday March 5	IFC Monthly Meeting 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.	St. Paul's Episcopal <a href="#">1208 W. Elizabeth</a> (482-2668)
Thursday March 19	IFC Monthly Meeting 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Sister Mary Alice Murphy Center for Hope - NW corner of <a href="#">Conifer and Blue Spruce</a>
<b>April 2009</b>		
Thursday April 2	IFC Monthly Meeting 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Westminster Presbyterian <a href="#">1709 W. Elizabeth</a> (482-7214)
Thursday April 16	IFC Evening Meeting "Immigration" 7 to 9 p.m.	Westminster Presbyterian <a href="#">1709 W. Elizabeth</a> (482-7214)
<b>May 2009</b>		
Thursday May 7	IFC Monthly Meeting 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Plymouth Congregational <a href="#">916 W. Prospect</a> (482-9212)
Thursday May 21	IFC Monthly Meeting 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Plymouth Congregational <a href="#">916 W. Prospect</a> (482-9212)
<b>June 2009</b>		
Thursday June 4	IFC Monthly Meeting 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Congregation Har Shalom <a href="#">725 W. Drake Rd</a> (223-5191)
Thursday June 18	IFC Special Dinner and Awards Event 7 to 9 p.m.	Blessed John XXIII <a href="#">1220 University Ave</a> (484-3356)

<b>July 2009</b>		
Thursday July 2	IFC Monthly Meeting 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Our Saviour's Lutheran <a href="#">2000 S. Lemay</a> (484-3133)
	No Program Meeting	
<b>August 2009</b>		
	No Meetings	
<b>September 2009</b>		
Thursday September 3	IFC Monthly Meeting 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.	First United Methodist Church <a href="#">1005 Stover</a> (482-2436)
Thursday September 17	IFC Monthly Meeting 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.	First United Methodist Church <a href="#">1005 Stover</a> (482-2436)

<b>October 2009</b>		
Thursday October 1	IFC Monthly Meeting 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Catholic Charities Northern <a href="#">460 Linden Center Dr</a> (484-5010)
Thursday October 15	IFC Monthly Meeting 9 a.m. - 11 a.m..	.Catholic Charities Northern <a href="#">460 Linden Center Dr</a> (484-5010)
Thursday October 29	Special Evening Meeting	Catholic Charities Northern <a href="#">460 Linden Center Dr</a> (484-5010)
<b>November 2009</b>		
Thursday November 5	IFC Monthly Meeting 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Blessed John XXIII <a href="#">1220 University Ave</a> (484-3356)
Thursday November 19	IFC Monthly Meeting 9 a.m. - 11 a.m	Blessed John XXIII <a href="#">1220 University Ave</a> (484-3356)
<b>December 2009</b>		
Thursday December 3	IFC Monthly Meeting 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Heart of the Rockies Christian Church <a href="#">6501 Brittany Dr</a> (223-1230)
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# **Fort Collins Area Interfaith Council Call to Action**

## **OUR VISION**

We are Faith Communities  
covenanted together to pursue justice  
in our community for everyone.

## **OUR MISSION**

Our mission is to address issues of community  
concern and to mobilize faith-based teamwork to  
respond to the basic human needs of every person in  
our community.

## **OUR VALUES**

Spiritual Consciousness  
Faith-Based Service  
Respect & Dignity  
Tolerance  
Mutuality  
Compassion  
Collaboration  
Commitment

## **OUR STRATEGY**

To provide a forum for issues of local concern.

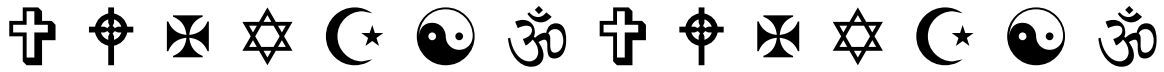
To challenge and strengthen each other and the community in  
responding to needs.

To support creative collaborative solutions responding to unmet needs.

To provide a meeting place for networking between Faith Communities  
and Agencies responding to the needs of the community.

To provide financial and volunteer support to programs and agencies  
serving our community.

# Fort Collins Area Interfaith Council



*Fort Collins Faith Communities +  
Agency & Organizational Representatives  
Covenant Together to Serve Human Needs*

Each Faith Community:

- ❖ Pays a Membership Fee
- ❖ Selects Clergy and/or Lay Representatives
- ❖ Commits Funds to Programs based on Membership

Maintains Membership by appointing New Representatives as needed

## Interfaith Council Monthly Meetings

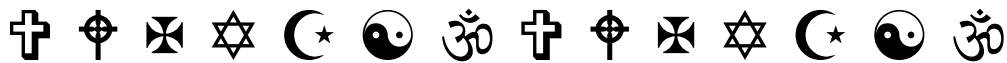
**1<sup>st</sup> Thursday:** Monthly  
Team Business  
Meeting followed by  
Meeting of the Council  
**9:00 – 11:00 AM**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday:** Monthly  
Program Meeting  
Open to the Public  
**9:00 – 11:00 AM**

1st Thursday – Executive Board  
(Officers and Committee Leadership)

Committees review needs and opportunities by representatives who:

- ❖ Take information to their Faith Community
- ❖ Generate Awareness and Commitment to Service
- ❖ Encourage volunteer to respond to needs
- ❖ Serve on a standing Committee



Fort Collins Interfaith Council  
Faith-Base Programs TO and FOR the Community

# **Serving as a Representative to the Fort Collins Area Interfaith Council**

An Interfaith Council Representative has an opportunity to learn about community needs and make them known to the members of their congregation and/or agency.

A representative has an opportunity to develop new friendships and promote pleasant, rewarding fellowship among members of covenanting congregations.

The Interfaith Council meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of every month except July, August and December, when only one or no meetings are held. When there is a 5<sup>th</sup> Thursday in any month, an evening meeting may be held. The meetings are held at various locations throughout the community. Refer to the weekly bulleting or the website for locations and a calendar of meetings. [www.ftcollinsinterfaithcouncil.org](http://www.ftcollinsinterfaithcouncil.org)

Representatives are asked to:

- Accept laity appointment to the Interfaith Council for a term of two years.
- Attend all Interfaith Council meetings or arrange for a substitute/alternate from their faith community to attend.
- Be active on one of the Standing Teams of the Council. Representatives may join the team of their choice.
- Submit news releases for publication in their faith community newsletter and/or bulletin, announcing activities of the Council or special event sponsored by the Council.
- Encourage other members of their faith community to attend Council meetings, serve on one of the Council Teams, and/or participate in Council events.
- Promote activities of the Council, encourage their faith community members to participate in areas where there are special needs and to work cooperatively with members of other faith communities.
- Report at least every other month to whatever entity within their faith community is responsible for their selection, appointment or election.
- Assist their faith community is hosting an Interfaith Council meeting.
- Ensure for an official selection, appointment or election to their position by their faith community.

Each member faith community has two votes, a combination of clergy and/or lay representatives.

**Visitors and guests are welcome to attend all meetings of the  
FORT COLLINS AREA INTERFAITH COUNCIL.**

# GUIDELINES FOR INTERFAITH TEAMS

**Communication and Membership Team:** This team will oversee, develop and report to Interfaith and the executive team on (1) the preparation and distribution of the covenants, solicitations, reports and handbooks, (2) retention and recruitment of faith communities and affiliated agencies, (3) the maintenance and updating of Council brochures & publications, (4) the responsibility for newsletters, news releases and public relations activities, (5) receiving & distributing materials for publication within and outside the Council, (6) coordinating internal and external publicity and supervising communications of the Council, including the website, the Bulletin, and other vehicles as developed, and (7) conducting membership drives.

**Activities and Programs Team:** This team will oversee, develop and report to Interfaith and the executive team on (1) the scheduling of all Interfaith activities, (2) setting the times and locations of regular Interfaith meetings, (3) arranging and coordinating programs presented to/for the membership's monthly "program" meeting, (4) updating and distributing program information to the appropriate Communication Team outlet in a timely manner for use of the membership and the Community at large, (5) seeking input/presentations from appropriate sources in the traditional areas of Food, Health, Housing, Social Concerns and other timely areas of need.

**Awards and Grants Team:** This team will oversee, develop and report to Interfaith and the executive team on (1) Notification of Affiliates and others of the existence and requirements for grant applications, (2) Receiving applications for specified amounts duly designated for purposes supported by the Council, (3) Reviewing & establishing guidelines to be used by those applying for grants, (4) Recommending and allocating the specific amounts of the awards and the specific recipients of the grant in the traditional areas or others. (5) Making special recognition awards to organizations and individuals on behalf of the Council. All subject to approval by the Executive Team. These processes can be ongoing month by month, or settled at other specific intervals as determined by the Team after considering the nature and flow of donations and applications. This Team may also make "Special Recognition" Awards to organizations and individuals on behalf of the Council.

## **2008 COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBERSHIP TEAM ANNUAL REPORT**

E-mailed the weekly bulletin via Sandy Pauer. Until July Valerie Baker Easely edited and mailed the monthly newsletter, which has since been discontinued. The monthly business meeting minutes are being sent to the membership electronically each month via the weekly bulletin. Oriented fourteen new members through the leadership of Pat Wise, who also submitted IFC announcements to The Coloradoan. Laine Walnicki has coordinated the preparing and mailing out of Covenants to membership, with the assistance of Pat Wise. Laine has also forwarded pertinent information to Webmaster Jon Mendenhall to maintain the membership directory. Broadcast weekly Interfaith Dialogue radio series on Thursdays at 6:00 pm on KRFC 88.9 FM in cooperation with IFC. The team has been responsible for arranging meeting places 2009.

Respectfully submitted,  
Richard Thompson, Chair

## **2008 FOOD TEAM ANNUAL REPORT**

Humanitarian canning trips totaled four in 2008. These trips yielded: 55 cases of strawberry jam, 42 cases of pinto beans, 70 cases of cinnamon applesauce, and 111 cases of canned potatoes for a total of 7,244 pounds. Funding grants this year went to: Catholic Charities Northern, Food Bank for Larimer County, Homelessness Prevention Initiative and the Salvation Army.

On behalf of the Food Team for 2008, The Salvation Army gave an informative presentation for the May 15 Program. The Food Team also hosted the September 18 program with Kate Walker from Catholic Charities Northern presenting the ever increasing demands for their services. Kate discussed how the impact of the economic crisis on all agencies will only get worse and the demands more pressing.

Sandy Pauer, Chair

## **2008 HEALTH TEAM ANNUAL REPORT**

The Health Team had two programs this year, one of which hosted the successful Dental program in July that served over 900 people. The dentists came in from all over CO and set up shop at the Ranch and did general dentistry as well as helping folks prepare for major dental issues so that everyone could have good healthful teeth. We said goodbye to 3 members who moved out of town, and welcomed 2 new members to our team. We provided 6 grants this year and had to place one on hold until our new funds come in this year.

Although the program was moved up a few months to January, we have been focusing on Pandemic Flu and other disasters and how we as a team can play a part should such a disaster strike or how we might work with others in preparing for this type of thing. We have also continued to monitor and discuss Health Care for all of Colorado and what changes are being made in that area.

Kate Walker, Chair

4/8/2009

## **2008 HOUSING TEAM ANNUAL REPORT**

Programs: Our programs in 2008 were held in April and October. The April program was an overview of the UniverCity initiative (the concept of the linking of Old Town, the Poudre River and CSU), and the progress of the building of the Hope Center. In addition, we prepared a glossary of terms and acronyms used by the government and social agencies. The October program was a breakfast at the Mission followed by a tour of affordable housing on the west side of Fort Collins. Thirty-one people toured the housing in vans provided by the City and NFRCC, and others joined us at Care Housing. We partnered with the City of Fort Collins, the Northern Front Range Continuum of Care (NFRCC), Catholic Charities Northern, Neighbor to Neighbor, Fort Collins Housing Authority, Volunteers of America, Mercy Housing-Springfield Ct., and Care Housing to hold the tour.

Grants: Crossroads Safehouse Homelessness Prevention Initiative  
Neighbor to Neighbor The Salvation Army  
Winter Day Shelter

Team Discussions: The City's "You plus Two" rule; gave recommendation to membership; Poverty in Fort Collins after watching DVD produced locally; the Winter Day Shelter located in City facilities and moved to Community of Christ Church in Nov. of 2008; the progress of the Hope Center to open in late February 2009;

Anita Hildebrand, Co-Chair

## **2008 SOCIAL CONCERNS TEAM ANNUAL REPORT**

The Social Concerns Team had a very active year. In June we received grant requests for eleven grants. Because the requests were for several hundred dollars more than we had to grant, the amounts given were less than those requested. In one case we successfully worked to get the computer requested donated. We had two programs. The last one in Nov covered areas of poverty suggested by the Pathways Past Poverty. There were seven seniors in poverty, single parent and two parent families in poverty, mental health and mental health with drug and alcohol issues. It was a very good year!

M. Katie Harper, Chair

In September 2007, we initiated an environmental stewardship project by adopting Butterfly Woods Natural Area. During 2008, twelve members and spouses and friends collected trash at this Fort Collins City Natural Area near LaPorte for a total of 30 person-hours of effort.

Bob Dana, Coordinator

## **BEGINNINGS OF INTERFAITH IN FORT COLLINS, COLORADO**

In 1979 Frank Holland, representing Catholic Community Services in Northern Colorado, spearheaded the effort to establish an interfaith body in Fort Collins. He visited various Christian churches in Fort Collins inviting the pastors to unite in an ecumenical effort to accomplish local mission goals that would be impossible for separate individual bodies to achieve.

The primary purposes of INTERFAITH would be:

1. to Identify basic community needs not being adequately addressed by the greater Fort Collins community;
2. to Form an ecumenical collective body, to be known as INTERFAITH uniting various faith communities to study, plan, coordinate, and promote practical solutions to unmet problems in Fort Collins
3. to Secure and involve lay members of participating churches to assure the long-term success of the Interfaith movement. Pastoral involvement would be primarily a role of supporting the laity.
4. to Begin the Interfaith effort with those interested faith communities, then maintain an open invitation to all Fort Collins faith bodies to join these efforts toward these purposes.

The first respondents to Frank Holland's calls included Rev. Philip Dunford, Westminster Presbyterian Church; Dr. Donald Lambert, American Baptist Church; Father Tom McCormick, John XXIII University Parish; Rev. Del Paulson, First United Methodist Church; Rev. Robert Nelson, Trinity Lutheran Church; Rev. John Minear, LaPorte Presbyterian Church; and Rev. Robert Gellar, United Campus Ministry. Organizational meetings were held at John XXIII University Center.

Participating pastors, recognizing the shifting nature of their tenure, agreed that the long-term survival of Interfaith would depend upon the involvement of the laity. Each agreed to attempt to secure the participation of at least two members of their faith communities for the continuity of the interfaith mission. This involvement of lay participants proved to be the stroke of genius that really united the movement and launched Interfaith into a solid future, as pastoral leadership continued to evolve through the years. As the church laity caught the vision, they ignited a fire of enthusiasm and faith that propelled the mission into action.

After a few years of trial in attempting to serve a wide variety of community needs, Interfaith reorganized under an umbrella of four basic mission services: food, housing, health and social concerns. Additional para-church social agencies in the community also became active members of the Interfaith Council. Through the years new faith communities were established in Fort Collins beyond the Christian church community. These bodies were formally welcomed as members of Interfaith, lending the organization additional strength and ecumenicity to evolve into the successful venture it has become in a new century.

Today this ecumenical body encompasses over thirty religious bodies, with about an equal number of community service groups as affiliated members. Major mission accomplishments in recent years include food for the hungry, assistance with housing provisions for low-income families, health services for needy families and individuals, contact with local and state lawmakers, assistance to families uprooted by the flood in Ft. Collins, and a wide variety of community social concerns that need to be addressed.