

# Roc ACTS

Rochester Alliance of Communities Transforming Society



MAY • 2022

Newsletter III

[WWW.ROCHESTERACTS.ORG](http://WWW.ROCHESTERACTS.ORG)



RocACTS incorporated 2014

Transforming our community together toward equity and justice through community organizing.

## WHAT'S INSIDE

- Faith in Action
- RocACTS Recruitment: Executive Assistant

## MAY CALENDAR



- MAY 2 Eid al Fitr Islam
- MAY 24 Declaration of Baha'u'llah Baha'i
- MAY 26 Ascension Day
- MAY 29 Ascension of Baha'u'llah Bahai



For the past two years, RocACTS has been a member of the Faith in Action Network (FIA), a national network of faith-based community organizing efforts. FIA was founded in 1972 under the leadership of Father John Baumann, a Jesuit priest who learned community organizing in Chicago. Rather than bring people together simply based on common issues like housing or education, the organization brought people together based on a common shared commitment to building power based on relationships and shared values. Over the next few decades, FIA grew into a national, and now international, institute for community organizing. In 2007, FIA launched its first national issue campaign; it coordinated the organizing work of its member federations to ensure the reauthorization of SCHIP, the State Children's Health Insurance Program. Member federations pushed their federal legislators to renew the program with increased funding that allowed millions of uncovered families to secure coverage for their children. Next, FIA and its member organizations successfully collaborated with dozens of allies to ensure the passage of the Affordable Care Act.

Today, Faith in Action, in its partnership with RocACTS and more than 40 affiliated federations and 8 statewide networks working in 150 cities and towns and 22 states, aspires to develop grassroots community leaders across the country who build multiracial, multi-faith power, rooted in racial and gender equity and centered on those closest to the pain.

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## Monica Sommerville



Faith in Action, Federation Coach and Director of C3/C4 Compliance

Monica has worked with the Faith in Action National Network for 15 years. Previously, she had served as the founding Director of Congregations United for Neighborhood Action (CUNA) in Allentown, PA. In April of 2007, Monica joined the Faith in Action National Staff and was responsible for helping FIA manage relationships with foundations and providing support to member organizations across the country. Currently, Monica provides consulting support to Faith in Action member organizations, including Roc ACTS, aimed at ensuring their compliance with 501C3 rules and regulations, strengthening their organizing, and supporting their efforts to raise local and regional funding.

## GET INVOLVED

To learn more about Trainings, RocACTS Task Forces, and how to become a member, visit our website at: [rochesteracts.org/get-involved](http://rochesteracts.org/get-involved)



Visit our [Website Here>>>](http://rochesteracts.org)

### VISION

An empowered and engaged community, grounded in shared values, working to build and sustain an equitable, just and moral society.

### MISSION

Transforming our community together toward equity and justice through community organizing.

### CONTACT US

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Roc/ACTS

@RocACTS · Nonprofit organization



Roc/ACTS

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Member organizations like RocACTS commit to building power that demands justice, eradicates White Supremacy, and creates belonging in every arena necessary, including electorally, legislatively, and in public agencies responsible for serving our communities. More than one million families and one thousand congregations from 40 different denominations and faiths participate in Faith in Action. Under the current leadership of Rev. Alvin Herring, Faith in Action provides training and organizational development coaching and support to member organizations. FIA national staff like Monica Sommerville work closely with RocACTS' staff, board members and leaders to raise funds, manage the organization, and develop strong organizing strategies. Faith in Action believes that ordinary people know best what their families and communities need and that their voices need to be at the center of political life. One of our basic principles is "never do for others what they can do for themselves." Ordinary people, given strategic training and support can take extraordinary steps to improve the quality of life for their communities. Faith in Action believes that when people have power, they can protect the things that are important to their families and their communities, and that one way to have power is to build strong, broad-based, democratic organizations.

Faith in Action values the racial, ethnic, religious and regional diversity that has shaped American society and believes that religion can bring us together rather than divide us; that our varied faith traditions call on us to make our communities and our nation better places to live. Faith in Action and RocACTS share a belief that faith-based community organizing is the best way to address the spiritual and material crises facing our society. It is the best tool we have for standing up to the wealthy individuals and corporate interests profiting from racial and economic oppression and environmental destruction. To create a new society based on equity, sustainability, and love we need to build strong multi-racial, multi-faith people-centered organizations that relentlessly press for social change. To support this, Faith in Action provides regular training sessions and resources to member organizations helping to grow the understanding of effective community organizing strategies. Faith in Action has a strong clergy engagement team that works closely with faith leaders helping them organize their communities, develop leaders and shape the public narrative in their cities and states. Additionally, Faith in Action provides regular training and coaching to community organizers and key leaders of its member organizations aimed at strengthening work at the local and state level while continuing to push for federal policy changes including immigration reform, racial equity, and more.

For additional information about Faith in Action and RocACTS, contact:

 585-546-7669

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Ralph Carter**  
Third Presbyterian Church

**Roberta Davis/ Secretary**  
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**Gaynelle Wethers**  
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**Rev. Dr. William Huston Wilkinson, Vice-  
President**  
Center for the Welcoming Way



# RocACTS Recruitment



## Job Title: Executive Assistant

### Job Description:

A part-time position, 15- 20 hours/week, that is responsible for supporting the work of RocACTS by providing basic administrative tasks and reporting to RocACTS Board/ President, and Executive Director/Organizer.

### Responsible to:

Board President/Executive Director

### Reports to:

Board President/Executive Director

### Qualifications:

The ideal candidate will have:

- Associates degree or equivalent
- Strong interpersonal and relational skills with the ability to relate to diverse faith traditions, cultures, and ethnic communities
- Commitment to Social and Economic Justice
- The capacity to multi-task, work independently as well as collaboratively with wide range of people.
- Ability to work flexible schedule as needed
- Excellent phone and organizational skills
- Computer literacy including effective use of Constant Contact and other data bases
- Proficiency in data entry and keyboarding skills
- Excellent organizational skills

### Compensation:

Compensation based on experience. RocACTS is an equal opportunity employer.

### Responsibilities:

- Maintain Constant Contact database
- Assist in preparing written communications, reports, meeting agendas and summaries, and other written documents as needed
- Maintain RocACTS calendar
- Update website regularly
- Make social media posts when requested
- Be responsible for filing records and ensuring an effective filing system
- Perform other administrative duties, such as ordering/purchasing supplies, inventorying supplies, and other duties as assigned
- Support Treasurer
- Participate in training, including tutorials provided by RocACTS, national organization

**If interested send resume to HR Chair Gaynelle Wethers at [gwether9@gmail.com](mailto:gwether9@gmail.com)  
and Ellie Stauffer at [Ellie.stauffer@rochesteracts.org](mailto:Ellie.stauffer@rochesteracts.org)**

## PURPOSE

RocACTS is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit, multi-ethnic, multi-racial, interfaith community organization working to transform our community for the common good by:

1. Breaking down the barriers that divide us by working to eliminate systemic racism and other forms of discrimination in order to promote social and economic justice.
2. Training community members as leaders and preparing and supporting them in public engagement initiatives.
3. Addressing the issues that impact the quality of life in our neighborhoods and community, both independently and in collaboration with other like-minded organizations.
4. Promoting a faith-community centered model of community organizing

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