



**Religious Leader's Caucus
April 21, 2021
MINUTES**

Minutes from RocACTS Religious Leader's April 21, 2021 caucus

In attendance: Dr. Muhammad Shafiq, Rabbi Peter Stein, Rev John McNeil, Rev Peter Peters, Brother Peter Veich, Rev Hans Irmer, Deacon David Palma, Deacon Duncan Harris, Rev Denise Yarborough, Barry Swan, Rev Denise Donato, Rev. Lori K Vail, Deacon Jim Fien, Rev Conley Zommerman, Rev Clifford Florence, Rev Marilyn Cunningham, Dr. Angela Sims, Dr. Cephas Archie, Robert Layer, Mongeon, Howard Eagle, Bob Harrison (PAB board), Dr. Gayle Harrison, Barbara Green, Dr. Deni Mack + a few others whose names we couldn't catch.

Participants introduced themselves and responded briefly to **Which RASE commission recommendation is most urgent to your ministry or what word, phrase or theme should be considered as we begin to draft our RocACTS Religious Leader's caucus mission statement?** Responses included: economic disparity, a commitment to truth, interfaith alliance, dismantling institutional, structural and from-the-ground-up racism, public safety, be physically present to those experiencing injustice, decentralize, analyze how trustworthy agencies are, needed changes in law enforcement, mental health and addiction services, examine all goals and actions with measurable accountability, teach real history.

Dr. Angela Sims, Pres., CRCDS gave a memorable reflection that can be heard on attached YouTube video

Dr. Cephas Archie, Chief Equity Officer, City of Rochester addressed religious leaders with an impassioned plea to give moral compass and build our congregant's character in the face of the public health crisis, racism. He reminds us that action speaks louder than words and gives us several can-do actions to take now in our congregations. Please, not only view his presentation but send it to your congregation's social justice outreach and anti-racism teams. They will be inspired. See attached YouTube video

Discussion followed

RocACTS is a federation of the Faith in Action Network