



Religious Leaders Caucus  
August 9, 2021

**MINUTES**

**ATTENDING:** Deacon Duncan Harris, Rabbi Peter Stein, Rev Dr William Wilkinson, Dr Muhammad Shafiq, Sr Phyllis Teirney, Sr Beth LaValley, Tabassam Javed, Carlos Santana, Deacon David Palma, Rev Todd Pullano, Barbara Green, Barbara Grosh, Kimberly Byers, Karen Costello, Joanne Balliet, Dr Gayle Harrison, Dr Deni Mack. Guests: Congressman Joseph Morelle and his aides Kaleigh Benedict and legislative assistant, Ebony. [Majette@mail.house.gov](mailto:Majette@mail.house.gov)

**INTRODUCTIONS:** We introduced ourselves by name, congregation and each of us briefly stated Rochester's most pressing needs.

A great crisis is a terrible thing to waste. Congressman Morelle is seizing the moment. He responded to our sharing of Rochester's most pressing needs by developing about ten points on each of the following major elements of the:

- American Jobs Plan – Build a Better Health Care System for all. Raise the Federal minimum wage which is \$7.25 to a living wage.
- Expand access to home and community-based services
- American Families Plan – Relief for our front line workers and their families. Ensure the permanent Child Tax Credit will cut poverty in half. We need to fix the child care system. Expand pre K. Free community college. Why Congress Needs to Pass the American Jobs Plan and American Families Plan and American Jobs Plan

Religious Leaders engaged the congressman so thoroughly that he asked to return to meet with us.

**CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY:** Brigit Hurley from the Children's Agenda spoke of the National Interfaith Weekend coming up Oct 17 and how to access info on Children's Sabbath on the internet. Children's agenda says we help our family, our school, and our neighborhood when we expand child tax credit to permanent and advocate for children. A survey poll will be emailed to Religious Leaders for available meeting times, dates and topics for this caucus. Hold Oct 7 from 7 to 9pm for RocACTS Leadership Assembly via zoom. Urge your social justice congregants to listen to people closest to the pain of injustice to focus our agendas.