



Ralph Carter &lt;rcarter56@gmail.com&gt;

## Jan 18, 2023 RocACTS Religious leaders caucus minutes

1 message

**Denise Mack** <deni.mack412@gmail.com>  
To: Ralph Carter <rcarter56@gmail.com>

Sun, Jan 29, 2023 at 11:30 PM

Thanks for your email requesting minutes. see below for jan 18 2023. It will take me awhile to get the others to you.  
Blessings, deni

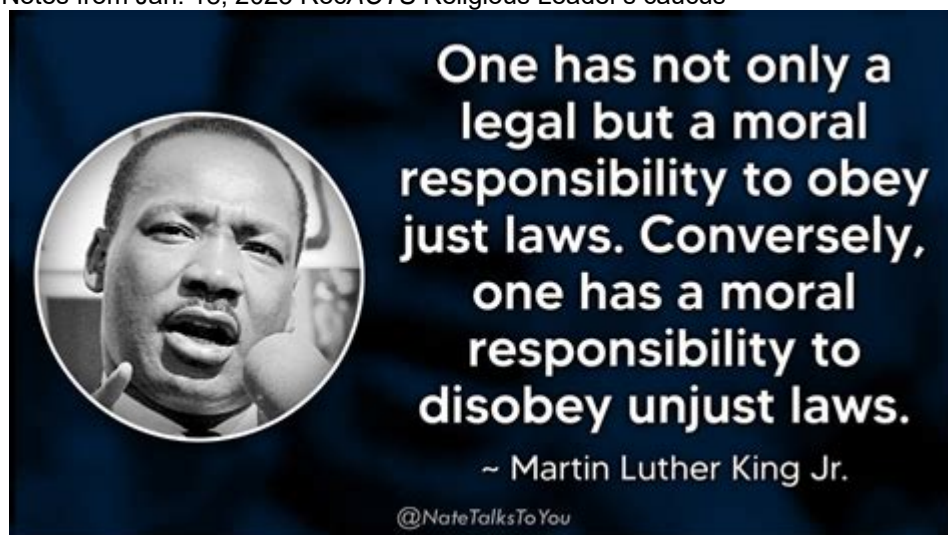
### Notes from Jan 18 2023 RocACTS Religious leaders caucus minutes

We thank Jalil Muntaqim, Director, Citizen Action and Monica Gegell, Director, Jewish Community Relations and Virginia Fifield, Mercy Associate for their witness @ RocACTS Religious Leaders Caucus Jan 18. 22 attendees welcomed new RocACTS member congregation, Mary Magdalen Church and new RocACTS member agency, Children's Agenda. See notes (below) for brief overview of Jalil, Monica and Virginia's witness. Please consider joining some of us as we accompany Ralph Carter, RocACTS Justice System's Task Force chair and his colleague, Jalil Muntaqim to Albany in Feb. to advocate for the bills they cite (see below).

At Feb 15 from 11:30 to 1 pm zoom RocACTS religious leader's caucus, spokespersons from Ibero American Action League and Fr Tracy Advocay center have agreed to speak on their work in the hope of future collaborative work with us. The IAAL is located in the former St Michael's rectory, Clinton Ave in the vibrant La Marketa but heavy gun violence neighborhood. Please attend and urge your religious leader to attend.

Blessings,  
deni

### Notes from Jan. 18, 2023 RocACTS Religious Leader's caucus



From Jalil Muntaqim:

It is my sincere hope this weekend was filled with the indomitable spirit of Dr. King's determination to resist and change laws found to be immoral and repugnant to human rights. As we reflect on the many times Dr. King went to jail during the Civil Rights movement, and the many others imprisoned or killed during the Black Power Movement, we should consider: What would Dr. King say about the mass incarceration of Black, Brown, Indigenous and poor people? What would be Dr. King's position on this statewide campaign to end 150+ years of Penal Slavery in New York State (NYS)? I dare say, if Dr.

King was in NYS, he would be leading a march to Albany to demand the abrupt abolishment of Penal Slavery in New York State.

We will not be marching, but we will be going to Albany on February 1st, 2023, to lobby for two bills, the **No Compulsory Labor Act** and **The Fair and Opportunity for Incarcerated Workers Act**, which would effectively abolish Penal Slavery in NYS. Please note that Assemblyperson Demond Meeks has championed this campaign by being the first in Rochester to sign both bills; Assemblypersons Jennifer Lunford, Sarah Clark, and Harry Bronson have not signed either bill; Senator Jeremy Cooney signed only one bill (No Compulsory Labor) and Senator Samra Brouk have not signed either bills.

Please join us on this statewide lobbying campaign to have these two bills made into law.

Register here: [https://docs.google.com/forms/u/0/d/1M\\_9Cn7MrljcKHexWxFN03ibTWO4o8vDA8iB56lwCydU/viewform?edit\\_requested=true](https://docs.google.com/forms/u/0/d/1M_9Cn7MrljcKHexWxFN03ibTWO4o8vDA8iB56lwCydU/viewform?edit_requested=true)

When you're able, please email Senator Zellnor Myrie and Assemblyperson Harvey Epstein and let them know you support their courage and determination to abolish Penal Slavery in NYS.

<https://www.nysenate.gov/senators/zellnor-myrie/contact>

<https://www.nyasembly.gov/mem/Harvey-Epstein/contact/>

Thank you for your support,  
Jalil Muntaqim  
Special Projects Coordinator  
Citizen Action of New York, Rochester Chapter  
[jmuntaqim@citizenactonny.org](mailto:jmuntaqim@citizenactonny.org)

**The Family and Friends of Incarcerated Workers Committee will be meeting on January 19, 2023, 6:30pm at the Citizen Action office on 1392 Culver Road & Merchant.**

Jalil collaborates with RocACTS Justice System Task Force which engages with Police Accountability Board Alliance and advocates passing Parole Justice Bills: [Campaign website](#)

- a. [Elder Parole Act](#)
- b. [Fair and Timely Parole Act](#)

and to [Pass Daniel's Law](#)

On Jan 18, religious leaders also engaged Monica Gebell, director, Jewish community relations who told us of her family's experiences entering the USA and trying to acclimate from Eastern Germany in the 19th and 20th centuries, some Christians blamed Jews for killing Christ; Madison Square Garden was full of Nazi sympathizers in 1939; stereotypes of Jews are even in Rowling's Harry Potter stories. Monica emphasized that American Jews want Palestinians to have civil rights to land, water, health care, education, food, worship, etc. and Jews need a homeland. While the words two states were not used, they were implied, as Monica said Jews do need a homeland as well as respect for Palestinian's need for homeland as well.

The differences in blocks to Black people and Jewish people being accepted in the USA were made. Monica can be reached at 241 8651 and [mgebell@jewishrochester.org](mailto:mgebell@jewishrochester.org) for one on ones and adaptable lesson plans for age appropriate learning about the meaning of symbols, i.e. swastika.

And we were moved by Virginia Fifield's witness. Ginny is a sister of Mercy associate and an indigenous woman whose history of the treatment of indigenous people is stirring. Her father was at Carlisle school and Ginny is working with the Department of the Interior re. unmarked graves. Ginny suggests we read Brown's *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*. Ginny cited events throughout our nation's and the church's history of indigenous people's lands and rights being taken from them and of brutalities, broken agreements, promises and neglect.

Religious leaders are urged to bring these speakers to our congregation's small or large groups to hear their stories and discover commonalities and find mutual support. See Jalil and Monica's contact info above. Ginny Fifield can be reached at [vfifield@aol.com](mailto:vfifield@aol.com)

Our congregation's social justice outreach team and anti racism team will be great hosts to these contemporary prophets!

Announcements:

Jan 22 2-4 pm @ Perinton Presbyterian Church, Pittsford Palmyra Rd, Fairport - Community awareness on how to prevent vandalism by spokesperson from Homeland Security

Feb 15 6:30 pm @ First Congregational UCC Church on Church St, Fairport. Perinton Pastoral Association honors Black History Month by presenting Tiffany Porter, Founder Black in the Burbs to share resources, toiletries and foods. Tiffany moved to Fairport at age 2 and is now a 39 yr old mom of 3 sons in Fairport Schools.

Email Barry Swan at [baswan@aol.com](mailto:baswan@aol.com) for info on a session on Darwin coming up soon.

We ask your prayer for Bishop Clark and the Diocese of Rochester as we are told that Bishop Matthew H. Clark is near death.

RocACTS Religious Leaders caucus next meeting is 11:30 to 1 pm Wednesday, Feb 15 via zoom with spokespersons from Ibero American Advocacy center and Father Tracy Advocacy center. Email [deni.mack412@gmail.com](mailto:deni.mack412@gmail.com) for a one on one, for one another's contact info &/or to suggest topics and speakers for future meetings.