

**INTERRELIGIOUS LEADERS DIALOGUE GROUP
PROGRAM GROUP REPORT**

July 22, 2010

The Planning Group has met three times since our last group meeting. Two of the meetings, as well as ongoing online conversations have been devoted to developing a proposal to bring back to this group for discussion and approval. The third was focused on an unexpected opportunity that has come our way with the visit of the Dalai Lama in San Jose this October.

Our discussions have centered on four dimensions of a new organization: the name; mission, goals and objectives; membership and structure; and finances.

NAME: We feel it would be very helpful for a number of reasons to settle on a name for the organization at this point. After serious discussion, **we would like to propose that it be called the Silicon Valley Interreligious Council, and would be abbreviated as SiVIC (“civic”).** We believe this clearly identifies the group as being a diverse group, based in religious communities, in the South Bay, and concerned about the wider community.

We are not at a point of making specific recommendations regarding the other dimensions. Attached you will find drafts of the mission, goals and objectives, and the membership and structure. Our goal is to have a proposal to present to the larger group in September.

Our additional meeting was centered on discussions with Mark Gonnerman, representing the Gyuto Center in San Jose, regarding the opportunity to sponsor an interreligious gathering in connection with the visit of the Dalai Lama to San Jose on October 12. We hope through such an event to make SiVIC visible within the community at large, and to signal our commitment not only to bring together people in our own area, but to connect to the global interreligious movement.

We want to thank Kimberly Aagaard, a student at Santa Clara University who has been an intern at the Council of Churches, who has kept notes of our meetings and assisted as support staff.

We continue to post updates and background materials to the SouthBay Interfaith website www.southbayinterfaith.org

DRAFT ONLY 7/22/10

MISSION:

The mission of the Silicon Valley Inter-religious Council (SiVIC) is to be a dynamic religious presence in the community-- promoting harmony, respect, inter-religious understanding, and shared action through relationship building, educational opportunities, common resource development, and cooperation.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

The goals and objectives for SiVIC are to:

- Promote a Just and Compassionate Society
- Build Relationships, especially among diverse Religious Groups
- Be a Voice for the Inter-religious Community
- Encourage Shared Action and Service
- Educate ourselves and our community about our Religious Diversity
- Facilitate Communication to and among Religious Groups
- Be a Resource for Information and Referral

MEMBERSHIP AND STRUCTURE :

The goal is to maximize "ownership" and participation and to minimize the number of people actually involved in final decision-making.

In the long-term we should be ready to hire staff, at least an E.D. with administrative support.

Membership

3 classes:

1. **Congregational Member**... agrees with goals and values of SiVIC and makes a financial contribution (maybe using Marin IC's sliding scale guidelines)... then may appoint 2 voting members to Annual Assembly.
2. **Community Member**... a non-profit with a community/religious mission, agreeing with goals and making a financial contribution... and may appoint 1 member to Annual Assembly
3. **Individual Member**... agreeing with goals and making a contribution... voice but no vote at Annual Assembly.

Organization

1. **Annual Assembly**... held in January or February. Voting members are:

- Elected Congregational members
- Elected Community members
- Members of the Board of Directors who are not otherwise members

Determines basic policy and direction of the organization. Elects Board of Directors

2. Board of Directors

The basic management group of the organization. Minimum of 20 members. Has the right to appoint members to itself in order to provide balance between religious tradition, ethnicity, geographic area, culture etc.

Have control of property, accounts, personnel (subject to instruction by the Annual Assembly).

Elected for three year terms. One third changes each year. May be reelected for second term.

No more than 6 years.

Meet at least six times per year

Create programs and committees

Chair, 3 vice-chairs, Secretary, Treasurer

3. Executive Committee

Has authority to act on ad interim basis between meetings of the Directors.