

## West Metro Interfaith Network (WeMIN) Vision

Geographical area: North of Cedar Lake Rd, west of 100. (Boundaries flexible)

Target members: Congregations of the Abrahamic religions (Others welcome)

Goals:

- To build mutual understanding, relationship and outreach
- To help avoid burnout on the part of the smaller Jewish and Muslim communities
- To create a replicable model that can be shared with others
- To use available resources to maximum effect

Method: Develop a rhythm of activities that meet the above goals of developing understanding, relationship and outreach. Suggested activities include:

- Interfaith prayer services
- Interfaith conversation sessions
- Joint service projects
- Small interfaith-sharing groups
- Lectures/trainings/classes
- Joint youth activities
- Summer youth or family peace camp
- Advocacy initiatives
- Interfaith prayer chain
- Accompaniment teams

- \* The network collectively will host at least one activity per month between September and May. Some activities might include only one or two congregations, while others would invite all member congregations. Hosting congregations decide how widely to extend any given invitation.
- \* Members will share gleaned wisdom with one another.
- \* A core group will meet regularly to maintain relationship, momentum and communication among the congregations.
- \* Membership could be formally endorsed by congregations or be an ongoing relationship with a group of committed volunteers
- \* Members would make limited use of social and news media in publicizing events to maintain intimacy and security

## Sample Plan 2017-2018

Note: Individual events would be hosted by one or more congregations. Hosting congregations would decide how widely to extend each invitation. This is intended to be a loosely organized network providing flexibility and shared resources to member congregations.

- \* Monthly prayer service for peace - rotate
- \* 3rd Friday Conversations: September, October, January, February, March, April - NWICC host
- \* Iftar meal May/June, Thanksgiving meal November
- \* 1 or 2 joint youth activities
- \* 3 or 4 joint service projects - SJTW, Mt. Olivet?
- \* Potential classes/lectures/trainings:
  - Safe Harbor* workshop
  - Interfaith 101* workshop for congregational staff/volunteers
  - Spiritually-based Activism* workshop
  - My Neighbor Is Muslim* (ecumenical Christian) 7-session study
  - Who Is My Neighbor?* (Intro to Islam for Catholics) 6-session study
  - Nonviolent Communication* workshop
  - Visiting scholars/speakers
  - Intro to small interfaith sharing groups
  - Spirituality and Trauma*
- \* Ongoing small faith-sharing groups - grassroots invitations
- \* Ongoing interfaith prayer chain - grassroots invitations
- \* 2-3 advocacy initiatives
- English language conversation circles (for English language learners)