Monmouth Center for World Religions and Ethical Thought (MCWRET)

Annual Report May 7, 2011

Ever deepening and expanding our understanding and acceptance of religious and cultural diversity the Board this year has been:
  - Sharing our individual spiritual journeys;
  - Welcoming three new members: Dr. Sarbmeet Kanwal, John Licitra, and Georgette Thomas; (The Board now has twenty-two (22) members representing sixteen (16) faith traditions.)
  - Updating the website www.interfaith-mcwret.org
  - Honoring the contributions of Ellen and Roshan Chaddha;
  - Finding ways to collaborate with Ellen and Roshan Chaddha over the miles;
  - Using retreats in visioning the future;
  - Active is writing legislators regarding violations of religious freedom such as the Baha’i persecution in Iran, “Islamophobia” and political upheaval in Egypt;
  - Memorializing the relationship between the MCWRET and the UUCMC with a written covenant;
  - Fostering inter-group collaboration with other like-minded organizations;
  - Participating in different celebrations such as the installation of the Pastor, at the First Baptist Church of Trenton, the Jain Diwali festival and the Muslim Iftar;
  - Adding to the art and artifacts from different faith traditions; as well as Planning and providing public programs.

The Programs during 2010 – 2011 include:
  - “Justice is love in action: Deepening the Dialogue” Sunday, February 14, 2010
  - “Deepening the Conversation: Justice is Love in Action” Sunday, May 2, 2010
  - “The Parliament of the World’s Religions: Its Aspirations and Accomplishments” Speaker Naresh Jain, (Member of the Parliament), Saturday, May 8, 2010
  - The 11th Shanti (Peace) Lecture, Speaker Dr. Gillian Sorensen, (Senior Advisor to the United Nations Foundation), Saturday, October 2, 2010
  - United We Sing, Sunday, November 21, 2010
  - LEADD (Leadership Education Advancing Democracy and Diversity) Retreat Friday – Sunday, April 15 – 17, 2011
  - Annual Meeting and “Let’s Hear from Our Youth” Saturday, May 7, 2011
  - MCWRET Table at the Red Bank Street Fair Sunday, September 18, 2011
  - The 12th Shanti (Peace) Lecture, Saturday, October 1, 2011
  - United We Sing, Sunday, November 20, 2011

Each program was well attended. It was standing room only for United We Sing 2010! The LEADD retreat was a resounding success with twenty four (24) high school students from six (6) different religious traditions attending for a weekend of fun and learning about each other and the basis of religious pluralism in the United States. The LEADD experience was a good foundation for continuing interfaith youth work in our area. This work would extend the mission of the MCWRET for “Peace-Building through Interfaith Dialogue” with the next generation.

Respectfully submitted,
Co-coordinators
Rev. Elizabeth B. Congdon  Dr. Stevi Lischin