

Promoting the Positive and Healing Role of Religion

• TIA Bears Witness for Katrina Evacuees • People of Faith and Good Will Restoring Healthy Democracy • America's Shame: Torture • Defending Religious Freedom • Fighting to Protect Religious Freedom in the Courts • The One, True 'Christian View' on Judicial Nominations? • TIAF Defends the 'First Freedom' • Opposing Bigotry, Promoting Unity • Recognizing the Faithful • The Interfaith Alliance Foundation's New National Radio Show • Welcoming a New Board Chair • Growing Our Influence on Capitol Hill • A Record Year for Membership and Fundraising • Reaching Out to the Media • Promoting the Positive and Healing Role of Religion • TIA Bears Witness for Katrina Evacuees



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Opposing Bigotry Promoting Unity



“One of our challenges today is to reclaim and assert the authenticity of real religion (whatever the tradition), give expression to the prophetic nature of the spirit and substance of religion, and refuse to allow religion to be hijacked by those who would use its authority and power for purposes antithetical to religious integrity and authenticity.”

THE REV. DR. C. WELTON GADDY, addressing Atlanta interfaith leaders at a Martin Luther King Day breakfast

Dear Friend of The Interfaith Alliance:

Like most ministers, I am always looking for a good idea for a sermon. Right now such seeds for preaching sprout in abundance every time I do even a quick scan of the daily news.

Virtually every news report—written or broadcast—stirs within me a yearning to confront our national leaders with what the Bible—like what the scriptures and oral traditions of most all religions—teaches us about honesty, compassion, justice, and charity. I itch to remind them of the moral dimensions of the choices they make for the nation and of the long-term personal and national consequences of those decisions.

I know that I am not alone in such feelings. Every week, on State of Belief, the radio show on Air America that I host on behalf of The Interfaith Alliance Foundation, I listen to people from all across our nation—religious and secular; Democrat and Republican—speak of their frustration, anger, and disappointment. I hear as well their firm resolve to find ways to convey words of sanity and morality to the leaders of our government who most shape the course and character of the nation.

Let's face it; we live in a harsh time. The credibility of the much ballyhooed "values revolution" in American politics has been compromised significantly by evidence of rampant greed and disgusting partisanship. As for the importance of religion, the frequency of spiritual rhetoric from the mouths of national leaders is not sufficient to still a rash of questions prompted by shouting, name-calling, government intrusion into houses of worship, the manipulation of holy texts to advance questionable policies, and a general prostitution of religion as a primal component of political strategy.

Every day's experiences strengthen my conviction that The Interfaith Alliance has never been more needed. Seeking to advance the healing and prophetic role of religion in American life, we work to remind Americans—including those who work in Congress and the White House—of the common values at the heart of religion. We cherish the religious freedom that gave birth to our nation and vigorously defend that first freedom against those who would trade the legacy of two centuries of religious liberty for

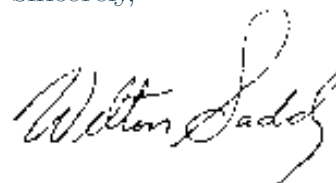
a quick political victory. We promote reasoned public discourse to counter talk-show vitriol and political attack ads, believing that civility in public discourse is a necessary prerequisite to a healthy democracy.

In 2005, our mission was challenging and fulfilling. In the pages that follow you can read our story, and decide for yourself how well we did. Of course, my hope is that after reading about our unprecedented work to help Gulf Coast residents after Katrina, our advocacy for religious freedom, our work on judicial nominations that threatened the values we

hold dear, you will agree that we lived up to our mission in 2005, and are worthy of your continued support.

We remain ever grateful to all whose contributions of ideas, energy, and resources helped us so much in 2005 and for a decade before. We value the extended family of The Interfaith Alliance and rely on you for much-needed support.

Sincerely,



The Rev. Dr. C. Welton Gaddy
President, The Interfaith Alliance and
The Interfaith Alliance Foundation



Promoting the Positive and Healing Role of Religion

First and foremost, the mission of The Interfaith Alliance and its sister organization The Interfaith Alliance Foundation is to protect religious freedom, to preserve the sanctity of religion and remind Americans of its healing and prophetic role, and to return civility and integrity to the political process. That mission was on

vivid display in 2005. From our work in support of the victims of Katrina to our defense of religious freedom, from our efforts to bring the many and varied voices of people of faith and good will to the democratic process to our labors to defend liberty from challenges brought by those with a narrow political agenda, 2005 was a year marked by accomplishment.

The organizations' 185,000 members across the nation come from diverse religious and spiritual

traditions - Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism - 75 faith traditions in all, as well as humanism, agnosticism, and atheism. Our Interfaith Alliances, together with a growing number of state and local partner organizations across the nation, made this past year our busiest and most effective year of grassroots activism, involving the organization in countless local issues where interfaith voices worked to promote the values of freedom and religious liberty that have brought us together.

TIA Bears Witness for Katrina Evacuees

Nowhere in the United States was the positive and healing role of faith more important than in the storm-ravaged Gulf Coast region in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. These storms devastated New Orleans, killed more than 1,000 local residents, and caused massive flooding and destruction for a huge swath of the area. Sadly, nature's fury was only compounded by bureaucratic bumbling and inaction by elected officials - and not just in the hours immediately before and after Katrina blew ashore.



Sanita Evans of Saintsville Church of God In Christ (Baton Rouge) shows us their make-shift food pantry for Katrina survivors that was being housed in the Church's gymnasium.

Shortly after Katrina had done its worst, the Rev. Dr. C. Welton Gaddy led a diverse, interfaith delegation of religious leaders on a tour of Baton Rouge and surrounding areas. They shared an abiding interest in ensuring that assistance was offered and money spent in ways that upheld, rather than violated, the evacuees' basic civil rights and fundamental religious freedoms. They investigated reports that federal relief dollars were being funneled to favored religious organizations. The delegation and The Interfaith Alliance welcomed federal intervention, but objected to diverting money away from evacuees in order to advance the Administration's "faith-based initiative."

In fact, what the delegation learned from religious and secular leaders on the ground in Baton Rouge was something entirely different: that practically no federal money had arrived at all. "Baton Rouge was promised advance money for Katrina relief efforts," said Irma Plummer, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer for Baton Rouge. "As of Day 56 [after Katrina], we had nothing. Our expenses to date are \$27 million; we've received \$6 million and half of that is being held up at the state level."

Evacuees implored the delegation to share their stories with elected officials in Washington, and The Interfaith Alliance Foundation kept faith with them. The Foundation produced both a video and written report on the trip that relayed painful first-person accounts of the "gross tardiness of government officials, the stark failure of government agencies, the repulsive ugliness of a rampant racism that knows no socio-economic boundaries." Many of the delegation members regrouped in November for a Capitol Hill briefing in the Hart Senate Office Building, where they shared what they had seen and heard with Members of Congress and their staff, and again called for evacuees to receive assistance that allows them to maintain their religious freedom and human dignity.



top: Amrit Kaur of the Sikh Council on Religious Education listens as a 9th Ward Evacuee talks of her harrowing experiences during Katrina. **middle:** Members of TIA's delegation get an overview of "Renaissance Village", the trailer park housing 9th Ward Evacuees, from FEMA officials. **bottom:** Volunteers man the information table for residents of "Renaissance Village."



People of Faith and Good Will Restoring Healthy Democracy

Since our founding, The Interfaith Alliance has decried the harshness of America's political culture, calling for civility and respect in public discourse. Such calls have had only limited success, we must acknowledge. Many politicians are apparently so committed to winning votes by appealing to anger, fear, and hatred that they are willing to poison the well of democracy.

In recent years, harsh and ugly rhetoric has sometimes led to harsh and ugly policy that endangers Americans' core freedoms and deeply held values. Responding to that challenge in 2005, The Interfaith Alliance repeatedly reminded policymakers of the moral dimension of the choices they are called on to make on behalf of the nation.

In March, for example, when a newly re-elected President Bush offered a budget proposal that would have made further sharp cuts to vital social programs in order to fund deeper tax cuts for the wealthy, The Interfaith Alliance led a rally on Capitol Hill to protest. "A civilization, Mohandas K. Gandhi, my grandfather, said, is judged by the way it treats its poor and needy," said Arun Gandhi, Founder and President of the M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence, and Board Member



Reminding lawmakers that the federal budget is a moral document that reflects the nation's commitment to the public welfare, The Interfaith Alliance co-sponsors a rally at the Capitol.

One of the uglier episodes of 2005 was the spectacle of Congress and the White House intervening in an individual family's tragedy for political advantage. During the painful weeks before and after Terry Schiavo's death, The Interfaith Alliance's President, the Rev. Dr. C. Welton Gaddy, was a voice of reason, appearing on radio and television, and quoted in various print outlets delivering a straightforward message: "All of us would do well to step back from the bedside of a woman caught somewhere between death and life, divorce political initiatives from personal and familial pain, and pray for the peace of Terri Schiavo and her family. At the same time, let us re-examine the political and spiritual prognosis of our democracy, never hesitating to challenge forcefully politicians who will manipulate even personal pain to achieve political gain."

of The Interfaith Alliance. “The 2006 federal budget that has been presented to the House is both unjust and immoral. The 2006 budget is immoral because while it cuts programs that help the poor and the needy, it showers presents on the rich. Clearly, this budget seeks to make the rich richer while reducing the poor to panhandlers.”

The Rev. Dr. C. Welton Gaddy made a similar point: “Fairness, compassion, integrity, and justice are the moral principles that must drive the crafting of the federal budget. This proposed budget is morally misguided and misrepresents the true values of the American people. We call on Congress to draft and approve a budget and financial policies that will provide for the poor, families, and communities.”

Local Interfaith Alliances echoed this call in communities across the country. The Interfaith Alliance of Idaho organized a Prayer Vigil for a Moral Budget, bringing 30 diverse religious leaders and people of faith and good will together at the office of U.S. Sen. Mike Crapo to pray and meditate for a federal budget that reflects the values of compassion and inclusion.

The Interfaith Alliance of Colorado helped organize a local protest of the federal budget proposal, noting that it would cut billions of dollars from programs providing food stamps, health care, student loans, and other services for the poor. In a related action, the group also played a key role in the landmark repeal of that state’s demonstrably unworkable requirement that tax measures be approved by statewide ballot. The so-called “Taxpayer Bill of Rights” was adopted by state voters in 1992, and was hailed as the beginning of a new wave of such state measures. But 13 years later, voters had tired of the radical cuts to vital programs it had forced, and voted to overturn the provision.

America’s Shame: Torture

Recent years have seen a once-unimaginable political debate over the morality of torturing prisoners by U.S. military and intelligence forces. The issue arose repeatedly in 2005, and each time The Interfaith Alliance responded with a consistent message “deploring the use of torture by the U.S. government anywhere, any time, under any circumstances.” Said the Rev. Dr. C. Welton Gaddy,



Among the diversity of groups at the budget rally at the Capitol, leaders of the Episcopal Church USA show their support.

Growing Our Influence on Capitol Hill

In its twelve years, The Interfaith Alliance has never had a busier year on Capitol Hill, a sign of the organization’s growing influence and the leadership role we have assumed in various Washington coalitions. The Interfaith Alliance President, the Rev. Dr. C. Welton Gaddy, Board Members, and staff had more than 200 meetings with Members of Congress and their staffs in 2005. The Reverend Gaddy testified three times before congressional committees, and conducted several briefings for Members and staff. Much of the credit for the advocacy program’s strengthening political muscle goes to The Interfaith Alliance members, whose letters, e-mails, and phone calls have helped deliver a key organizational message: that religious liberty is an essential component of a democratic nation and that the Religious Right simply does not speak for all people of faith and good will!

TIA Activist Profile

Russell Bennett

“Our group of pastors and lay people came together 10 years ago, driven by a concern about the Religious Right claiming to speak for religious people on political issues. We felt that was wrong, and we were seeing the country change, beginning here. That impelled us to speak up and form a mainline organization that expressed the moral and religious concerns that were not being heard.”



The Reverend Russell Bennett,

Retiring President of The Interfaith Alliance of Tulsa.

In the heart of America’s Bible Belt, The Interfaith Alliance of Tulsa, Oklahoma, works on a range of issues at the intersection of religion and politics, and has for a decade. “We started to speak as an ad hoc group,” says Bennett, “and then affiliated with The Interfaith Alliance because we felt the aims were very similar to what we were doing. And we’ve steadily grown, particularly recently.”

In 2005, the organization scored a major local victory, denying an effort by the mayor to install a pro-Creationism exhibit in the public zoo. “We roused public opinion, with the clear message that the zoo’s mission was being destroyed. I’m very proud that we have formed an organization that is willing to address issues as they arise, and is willing to be proactive and take on tough issues.”

The Reverend Russell Bennett passed away in the summer of 2006.

“These are not the values of mutual religious respect expected of representatives of our nation by its citizens... American justice is based on the unalienable rights and human dignity our founding documents affirm. Civil liberties may be granted by law, and just law may therefore restrict them. But human dignity is granted by God, and the decision to compromise that dignity even for laudable ends is always, always wrong.”

Early in the year, the nomination of Alberto Gonzales to be Attorney General of the United States framed the issue starkly. As a White House lawyer in President Bush’s first term, Gonzales had provided the President with legal counsel condoning torture of prisoners. His confirmation hearings in 2005 should have been an opportunity to explore the issue, but instead of providing the Senate Judiciary Committee with the documents needed to explore the matter and responding candidly to the Committee’s questions, Gonzales and the White House simply stonewalled - at times claiming poor recollection, and at other moments asserting that advice offered to the President was beyond the reach of a congressional panel.

Interfaith Alliance President Gaddy issued a sharp rebuke. “Evasive half-answers to questions from Senators are not acceptable,” he said. “Saying ‘I don’t recall’ is not acceptable. As the nominee to be the nation’s chief law enforcement officer, Judge Gonzales must not be allowed to plead the Fifth Amendment, in essence, in order to avoid taking responsibility for his actions, his policies, and his counsel to the president. The American people deserve no less than honest and complete answers and a full and open debate on the nomination.”

The organization’s affiliates joined the struggle, as well. The Interfaith Alliance-Long Island, for example, mobilized its members in 2005 to join in a national campaign to bring tens of thousands of Americans to the nation’s capital to protest torture tactics and call for peace. And the organization mounted a letter-writing campaign aimed at ending government-sanctioned torture.



Defending Religious Freedom

President Bush created the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives after legislation creating such an office reached a dead end in Congress because of religious liberty concerns. While this initiative is based on the good intentions of houses of worship, much of the legislation

and White House documents include proposals that would allow for government-funded discrimination and few or no regulations for an organization's program. The faith-based initiative seriously threatens religious liberty and pluralism in the United States. In 2005, The Interfaith Alliance took a leading role in a national coalition working to defeat the effort to write the faith based initiative into law. Reverend Gaddy testified three times before Congress on the subject. "If we lose religious liberty by getting sloppy in our protection of its corollary," he told a House committee on June 21, 2005, "the institu-

tional separation of religion and government, we will hurt both religion and government, jeopardizing seriously the democratic provision that has allowed the religious vitality in our nation that is so self-evident in current religions' charities." He went on to identify 10 reasons why as a man of faith, he opposed the initiative - among them that the proposal would encourage discrimination, endanger the integrity of religious institutions, make those in need of social services vulnerable to proselytizing, and harm freedom of, and from, religion.

State and local Alliances reinforced the national organization's efforts. The Interfaith Alliance-Tulsa, for example, gathered a diverse group of religious leaders to meet with state legislators and a special legislative study committee to offer their observations on how extensive government funding for religion in Oklahoma has already done damage to the institutions of religion and government.

Despite the organization's warnings, the effort to write the Faith-Based Initiative into law had made



Rev. Dr. C. Welton Gaddy testifies before the Committee on Government Reform regarding HR 1054, Authorizing Presidential Vision: Making Permanent the Efforts of the Faith-Based and Community Initiative.

disturbing progress in Congress by year's end: The U.S. House of Representatives adopted measures that would permit federally funded religious Head Start programs to discriminate, as well as a job-training bill that permitted religious discrimination.

Fighting to Protect Religious Freedom in the Courts

The unexpected retirement of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and the death of Chief Justice William Rehnquist set the stage for high-stakes Supreme Court confirmation battles with huge implications for religious freedom.

The Interfaith Alliance recognized in this battle an issue near to our heart and mission - whether the views of the minority would be heard and respected. The religious and democratic values of



fairness, integrity, and mutual respect for differing viewpoints must be a part of the legislative process. So the organization held press conferences with a coalition of religious leaders highlighting the filibuster as an important tool in guaranteeing a government respectful of all

citizens and mobilized members to send thousands of e-mails and petitions and make telephone calls to their Senators urging them to vote against the "nuclear option," a dodgy parliamentary maneuver that would have allowed a radical rewriting of Senate rules to abolish the filibuster for all future judicial nominations. The

Interfaith Alliance also coordinated a sign-on letter project with hundreds of religious leaders in strategic states such as Alaska, Maine, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Ohio. A number of state and local Interfaith Alliances joined in-district meetings with key Senators as well.

Tulsa Zoo Becomes Battleground for Creationism Fight

The Religious Right's decades-long effort to see to it that schoolchildren are taught the Old Testament story of Creation instead of the scientific theory of evolution has been marked by persistence and creativity. When one approach failed or was exhausted, the Religious Right quickly found another. They renamed Creationism "Creation Science," and then "Intelligent Design." They pressed school boards for "balanced treatment" and for disclaimers undercutting evolution in the fronts of biology textbooks. They lobbied to eject science books from the classroom and to

replace them with Creationist tracts, and even tried to make it economically impossible for the textbook industry to publish books that covered evolution.

In 2005, they tried a completely new approach to achieve what amounted to government-funded religious instruction. In Tulsa, first-term Mayor Bill LaFortune led the city's Park and Recreation Board, on which he holds one of four votes, to approve a pro-Creationism display at the city zoo. Other displays at the zoo focus on science, anthropology, and history, and the display

would have presented the Old Testament's Creation story in that light.

The Interfaith Alliance of Tulsa mobilized quickly, forming an umbrella organization called Friends of Science & Religion to lead the charge against the proposal. Over the space of a few weeks, the group mustered enough public support to force the board to reconsider, rejecting the mayor's plan, disappointing local Religious Right supporters, and sending a strong message that taxpayer money must not be used to advance any particular religion in our nation's public institutions.



Senator Dianne Feinstein (CA) joins TIA and other partners at a rally in Washington to preserve the Senate's protection of minority views in the form of the filibuster.

The Interfaith Alliance of Pennsylvania's 'No Nukes' Campaign

State and local Interfaith Alliances joined in the campaign against the so-called “nuclear option” to ban filibusters as a necessary check and balance against the tyranny of the majority. The Interfaith Alliance of Pennsylvania pressed its senior Senator, Judiciary Committee Chair Arlen Specter, to oppose the unprecedented change in Senate rules, staging a series of events and coordinating a letter from a diverse group of more than 100 Pennsylvania religious leaders. The letter read,

As people of faith committed to maintaining the historic separation of the institutions of religion and government, we are certainly concerned about the increasingly inflammatory rhetoric directed at ‘activist judges’ and the coordinated effort to question the faith of those who hold different political views... If the nuclear option is enacted, it would irreparably damage the Senate’s role of advice and consent in relation to judicial nominees.

TIA Activist Profile

Jarvis Johnson

“In my mind, ‘interfaith’ describes a common thread that runs across all religions: justice. Working with The Interfaith Alliance makes you realize you’re not an island. With understanding across faith traditions comes peace...that’s what it’s all about.”



The Rev. Jarvis Johnson,
Director of Faith-Based Outreach for
Wal-MartWatch

“The Interfaith Alliance’s National Leadership Gathering was a real eye-opener for me,” says Johnson, Wal-Mart Watch works with community groups around the nation to challenge the world’s largest retailer to become a better employer, neighbor, and corporate citizen.

“The interfaith community is saying it needs to take back its own language, because it was co-opted in the last election,” he says. “We heard morality language used against gay rights, but the real issues that were on the table – the working poor, health care issues, children – they were left behind. Those were the real issues, but the religious language was used to co-opt that.”

The One, True 'Christian View' on Judicial Nominations?

Predictably, the Religious Right seized momentum on the judicial nominations battle to further its case against religious freedom. One tactic employed in 2005 was a series of "Justice Sunday" events, in which Religious Right leaders, including Focus on the Family's James Dobson and the Family Research Council's Tony Perkins, inveighed against the prerogative of the "anti-Christian Left" to have its voices heard on judicial nominations.

Disturbingly, Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, a likely presidential candidate, cast his lot with Dobson and the rest, recording a videotaped message of support to be played at the first Justice Sunday rally. The Rev. Dr. C. Welton Gaddy protested Frist's participation in the event, noting that Frist and his colleagues "appear unable to discern the difference between authentic faith and partisan politics...thus fostering a redefinition of religion that is blasphemy and a redefinition of democracy that is scary."

At the national level, The Interfaith Alliance organized an audio press conference that brought a diverse group of religious leaders together to take questions by telephone from national and local media across the nation. One result of the effort was that The Interfaith Alliance and the Reverend Gaddy were cited in more than 100 newspapers, including [The New York Times](#), [Boston Globe](#), [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#), [San Francisco Chronicle](#), [Miami Herald](#), and [San Jose Mercury News](#), and by countless television and radio programs, including NPR's Morning Edition and ABC's Good Morning America.

Since the first of the three Justice Sunday events was held in a Louisville, Kentucky, church, The Interfaith Alliance of the Bluegrass assembled its local supporters to respond. The group's counter-demonstration, "The Rally for Faith & Freedom to Stop the Abuse of Power," brought more than 1,000 citizens together to send a clear message that the Religious Right does not speak for all Kentuckians of faith and good will. Other local Interfaith Alliances joined the fray as well, holding press conferences and spearheading phone-call campaigns to their Senators.



TIA joins local faith organizations to organize an interfaith response to Focus On The Family's Justice Sunday in Louisville, KY.

TIAF Defends the 'First Freedom'

In 2005, The Interfaith Alliance Foundation, with generous support from an anonymous donor, began working with Americans United for Separation of Church and State to lay the groundwork for a nationwide campaign on behalf of religious freedom. Set to launch in summer 2006, the campaign will gather petition signatures from thousands of diverse Americans united by a desire to protect religious freedom and democracy. The campaign will also include Web-based organizing, events, media outreach, and more.





Dr. Gaddy interviews the Reverend Dr. Bob Edgar, left, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches, for State of Belief, The Interfaith Alliance Foundation's weekly program on Air America Radio.

The Interfaith Alliance Foundation's New National Radio Show



In early 2006, The Interfaith Alliance's Rev. Dr. C. Welton Gaddy became the newest program host on Air America Radio. State of Belief is heard on Air America stations around the nation and on XM Satellite Radio each Sunday afternoon. The Reverend Gaddy offers critical analysis of news, religion, and politics, while bringing a range of diverse religious voices, newsmakers, journalists, and celebrities to discussions of issues at the intersection of religion and politics. For options on how to listen to State of Belief, go to www.StateofBelief.com.

TIA Activist Profile

Connie Ryan Terrell

“For me, religion was never separate from my political interests. My faith and values stress inclusiveness, tolerance, and equity. In my opinion, I can’t just be faithful without being faithfully active and making a difference in my community.”



Connie Ryan Terrell,

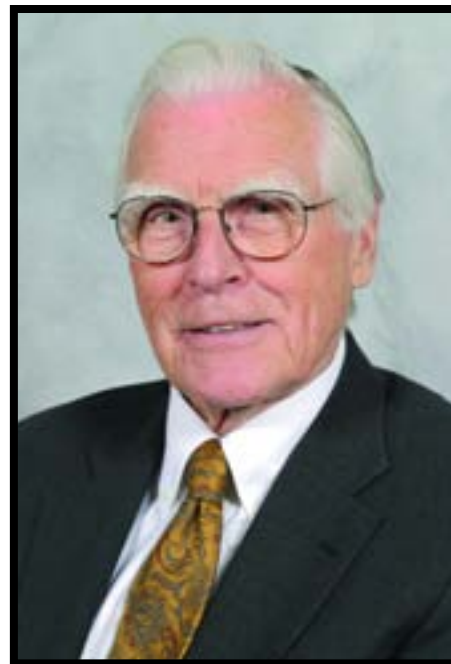
Executive Director, The Interfaith Alliance of Iowa.

Connie Ryan Terrell came to The Interfaith Alliance nearly five years ago, first as a graduate student, then a staff member, and now its executive director. “It’s a perfect fit for me,” she says. “I love politics, and the appropriate intersection between politics and religion. And I love it when people’s faith makes them passionate about issues, giving them the drive to make a difference.”

In 2005, The Interfaith Alliance of Iowa put its time and passion into responding to a request from the state to help pair Katrina evacuees with Des Moines area houses of worship that would in turn help get them settled in the area. But the organization was also a forceful presence in the state legislature on issues including the death penalty, civil rights for the LGBT community, school safety, school-sponsored prayer, and government-funded religion. “I really enjoy helping people take their faith and do something with it,” Ryan Terrell says. “And the truth is that there’s no other organization in Iowa that comes close to what we do. If we weren’t around, the only other prominent religious voices would be the ones from the very far Christian Right.”

Welcoming a New Board Chair

The Interfaith Alliance’s Board of Directors elected Alexander Forger, Esq., to be its new chair in 2005, succeeding the Rev. Dr. Gwynne Guibord, who retired from the board after eight years of service to the organization. Mr. Forger is Special Counsel of the law firm of Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy, where he has practiced law for 50 years and was Chairman for eight years. He currently serves as the Director of the Mellon Family office. Mr. Forger was President of the New York State Bar, Chairman of the Board of New York Law School, and, from 1994 to 1997, President of the federally-funded Legal Service Corporation.



Opposing Bigotry, Promoting Unity

Combating intolerance and bigotry has always been a core priority for The Interfaith Alliance. In that effort we follow a two-pronged strategy: First, we appreciate and celebrate diversity and encourage others to do the same; and second, when we encounter religion being used as a tool for advancing intolerance and bigotry, we expose it to public scrutiny.

Over the years, The Interfaith Alliance's "STOP the HATE" campaign has spawned hundreds of vigils and rallies in communities large and small. In 2005, a dozen Interfaith Alliances sponsored STOP the HATE events, including

The Mainstream Coalition of Wichita, Kansas (an Interfaith Alliance affiliate), which organized a rally at Wichita State University and a candlelight vigil immediately following, and The Interfaith Alliance of Middle Tennessee, which focused its event on homelessness. Participants at the 2005 National Leadership Gathering - an annual training and networking conference for state and local Interfaith Alliance leaders and activists - also joined in a vigil in downtown Washington, D.C. Meanwhile, The Interfaith Alliance of Colorado stood up for the Denver Muslim community, staging a rally in defense of an Islamic Center after a Religious Right organization subjected it to tactics it usually applies when blockading women's health clinics.

The Interfaith Alliance took that same STOP the HATE message to its work in support of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act, which was by



Dilawar Singh Dhatt speaks at a STOP the HATE vigil with national activists, describing his experience as a victim of a religious-based hate crime. The Interfaith Alliance works to counter religious bigotry and hate violence through promoting religious liberty, pluralism and stronger hate crime prevention legislation.

TIA Activist Profile

Jonipher Kwong

“In Hawaii, there are people from very diverse faith traditions sharing a small space. I’ve learned that interfaith work is about valuing different beliefs or spiritual perspectives... Together we share a common vision for humanity that defuses religious extremism and intolerance.”



Jonipher Kwong, member of the board, The Interfaith Alliance of Hawaii

Jonipher Kwong may be new to Hawaii and to The Interfaith Alliance, but his commitment to the organization’s values and mission is longstanding. He came to Honolulu from Southern California in 2004 to form and pastor a new Metropolitan Community Church.

“Homelessness has been a big issue for us,” he says, “because it’s becoming increasingly difficult to find affordable housing. We have created this large group of working poor in Hawaii, people who are working but are basically homeless.” With leadership from Kwong and others, the organization has helped create a new organization to raise money for temporary housing for families. On these and other issues, Kwong believes the interfaith approach makes a big difference. “We’re at the crossroads between East and West in Hawaii,” he says, “and have active participation from the Buddhist, Islamic, and Jewish communities. We’re truly interfaith, and it creates a great opportunity to demonstrate what true pluralism can be like, and how various faith communities can get together to be friends without spending their time trying to convert one another.”



At another demonstration, people of faith and good will proclaim that hatred is neither a religious nor American value. Joining with members of their community, the local Interfaith Alliance activists put their faith into action by praying, singing and reading reflections that demonstrate how religion can play a uniting role in countering hate violence.

coincidence reintroduced in Congress just days after a series of North Carolina cross burnings. The legislation would expand federal jurisdiction to cover violent hate crimes committed because of race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, or disability of the victim. Said the Rev. Dr. C. Welton Gaddy in a statement the day of the bill’s introduction, “Legislation alone cannot remove hatred from the hearts and minds of individuals, but legislation can help to create a society where hate-motivated violence is deemed intolerable.” A version of the bill was adopted by a bipartisan majority in the House of Representatives, a landmark in the drive toward eventual passage, even if House leadership later scuttled the provision. The Senate, unfortunately, did not act on the bill in 2005.



Recognizing the Faithful

In keeping with tradition, The Interfaith Alliance's eighth annual Walter Cronkite Faith & Freedom Award gala in New York City was an opportunity to recognize the good works of a number of outstanding members of the interfaith community.

The recipients of the 2005 Walter Cronkite Faith & Freedom Award were the Honorable Thomas H. Kean, former

governor of New Jersey and the head of the 9/11 commission, and human rights activist Dr. Keith Jennings. The annual honor recognizes those who promote democratic values, defend religious freedom, and foster informed civic participation.

Governor Thomas Kean was chosen by President Bush to head the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States, known as the 9/11 commission. Its recommendations resulted in the largest intelligence reform in the nation's history. Kean went on to serve as the chairman of the 9/11 Public Discourse Project, a nonprofit entity created with private funds to continue the 9/11 commission's work.

Dr. Keith Jennings is president and founder of the African-American Human Rights Foundation, an organization dedicated to the promotion of international human rights standards. He coordinates the Social Justice Ministry at Atlanta's First Iconium Baptist Church and is the director of international programs for the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Non-Violent Social Change. He is also one of the coordinators of the Saving Our Selves Coalition that formed in the wake of Hurricane Katrina and the resulting humanitarian crisis.



Governor Thomas Kean, the Reverend Dr. C. Welton Gaddy, and Dr. Keith Jennings visit with Mr. Walter Cronkite (seated), Honorary Chairman of The Interfaith Alliance and The Interfaith Alliance Foundation boards of directors, at the eighth annual Walter Cronkite Faith & Freedom Award gala in New York City.

The Bishop P. Francis Murphy Local Activism Award was established to recognize outstanding grassroots leadership and to commemorate the memory of Bishop Murphy, the Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, Maryland, and founding Board Member of TIA. In early 2005, the fifth annual Bishop Murphy Award was presented to The Interfaith Alliance of Middle Tennessee, one of the organization's earliest chartered Alliances, in recognition of its decade-long commitment to interfaith activism across a range of issues. A particular focus of the organization in recent years has been its intense voter registration activity and its ongoing series of effective STOP the HATE programs.



The Interfaith Alliance and The Interfaith Alliance Foundation would like to thank all the contributors who have made our work possible. We would like to highlight the following donors who gave \$500 or more in 2005.

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Financial Statement

Statement of Activities

For the year ending December 31, 2005	The Interfaith Alliance	The Interfaith Alliance Foundation
Revenues		
Events	\$-	\$82,715
Foundations	\$-	\$672,500
Leadership Donors	\$118,255	\$126,273
Membership	\$5,030,520	\$-
Other Sources of Income	\$16,248	\$130,047
Total Revenues	\$5,165,023	\$1,011,535
Expenses		
Program Services:		
Grassroots Organizing, Religious Outreach and Issie Advocacy	\$2,186,502	\$-
Education, Research and Civil Discourse	\$-	\$632,599
Support Services:		
Management and General Operations	\$313,553	\$120,864
Fundraising	\$1,954,564	\$187,455
Total Expenditures	\$4,454,619	\$940,918
Change in Net Assets	\$710,404	\$70,617
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$(13,294)	\$127,886
Net Assets, End of Year	\$697,110	\$198,503

Statement of Position

December 31, 2004	The Interfaith Alliance	The Interfaith Alliance Foundation
Assets		
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$687,201	\$605,623
Donations Receivable	\$8,911	\$73,598
Due from The Interfaith Alliance	\$378,959	\$-
Property and Equipment, Net of Accumulated	\$58,608	\$27,800
Security Deposits	\$116	\$-
Total Assets	\$1,133,795	\$707,021
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$436,685	\$129,559
Due to The Interfaith Alliance	\$-	\$378,959
Total Liabilities	\$436,685	\$508,518
Net Assets, Unrestricted	\$697,110	\$198,503
Total Net Assets	\$697,110	\$198,503
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$1,133,795	\$707,021

6/13/05

