

2013 judicatory survey



“To forego the luxury of separate ways when a common path can be found”

by: Kristin Kremer, M.S.
Member Judicatory – ELCA
Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

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MARCC History

- The Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati (MARCC) began its work as an interfaith coalition in 1968. The membership consists of seventeen denominations (or judicatories) representing Protestants, Roman Catholics, Muslims, Jews and Unitarian-Universalists. MARCC provides a way for the religious community to speak in one voice to make compassion and reconciliation heard and felt through constructive community action and the development of a community conscience.
- MARCC listens, researches, convenes, sends representatives, informs, interprets, and advocates for social justice in the metropolitan region. MARCC's actions arise from, and are directed toward, concern areas raised by the religious community and agreed upon by consensus of judicatory members.
- The purpose of this judicatory survey is to take the social concern pulse of each member denomination of MARCC. By their representative participation in the survey, MARCC tried to identify the social concern trends of our members and their congregations. Our intention and hopes are that the results of the survey will help us better align the work MARCC does in the Cincinnati Metropolitan region with denominational concerns.

MARCC Judicatories/Denominations

- MARCC currently has 17 member judicatories, or denominations:

Archdiocese of Cincinnati- Roman Catholic

Association of Unity Churches-

Baptist Ministers Conference of Greater Cincinnati & Vicinity

Church of the Living God

Cincinnati Conference- Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA)

Cincinnati Islamic Center

Disciples of Christ, Southwest Ohio

Diocese of Southern Ohio- Episcopal

Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Greater Cincinnati

Jewish Community Relations Council

Miami Association – American Baptists

OH River Valley District – United Methodist Church

Presbytery of Cincinnati

Religious Society of Friends

Unitarian Universalist Council

United Church of Christ – Southern OH Northern KY Association

Volunteers of America of Greater Ohio

Survey Methodology

- Each judicatory member of MARCC's Executive Committee collected the email addresses and names of the religious leaders for each congregation.
 - The exception was the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Instead of disseminating the survey to the 214 Catholic congregations, the survey was sent to members of the Social Action Commission. The Archdiocese also conducted a survey of its own at the same time and some of the survey findings has been included in this report.
- A total of 278 email addresses for individual congregations were collected and an online survey designed by the Executive Committee was launched in June 2013.
- Congregations are primarily from Warren, Butler, Hamilton, and Clermont counties. (Two judicatories extend into Northern Kentucky.)
- 75 respondents (representing 75 individual congregations) participated in MARCC's online survey for a response rate of 27% and represent 15 of the 17 judicatories. The congregations have approximately 61,130 members.
- The results enable MARCC to measure baseline data about social concerns of member judicatories, as well as awareness of MARCC.
- Additional information can be found at the end of the report concerning judicatory respondents.

Executive Summary

MARCC over its 45 year history has devoted its mission to addressing as one voice social concerns in the Cincinnati Metropolitan area. By concentrating on common human needs such as food, human services, quality education, immigration, affordable housing, healthcare, employment, and community/police relations, MARCC has been a pillar within the community and an example of an entity that can work together and transcend religious differences while striving for a stronger and healthier community.

Based upon 75 congregations that participated in MARCC's first online survey (representing 15 of the 17 judicatories and over 60,000 members), MARCC's has been concentrating on social concerns that are priorities at both the judicatory and congregational level.

On the next page a table consolidates the findings of the survey and compares the judicatory and congregational concerns with the judicatory votes in the past 2 years. The first 3 columns of the below table are the top 5 judicatory and congregation social concerns survey results, while the last 2 columns are the top 5 social concerns of MARCC's judicatory votes for the past 2 years. The concerns with the '*' indicate the social concern priorities for that year. It is heartening to see alignment with the congregations on social concerns that are vital for our community.

Executive Summary

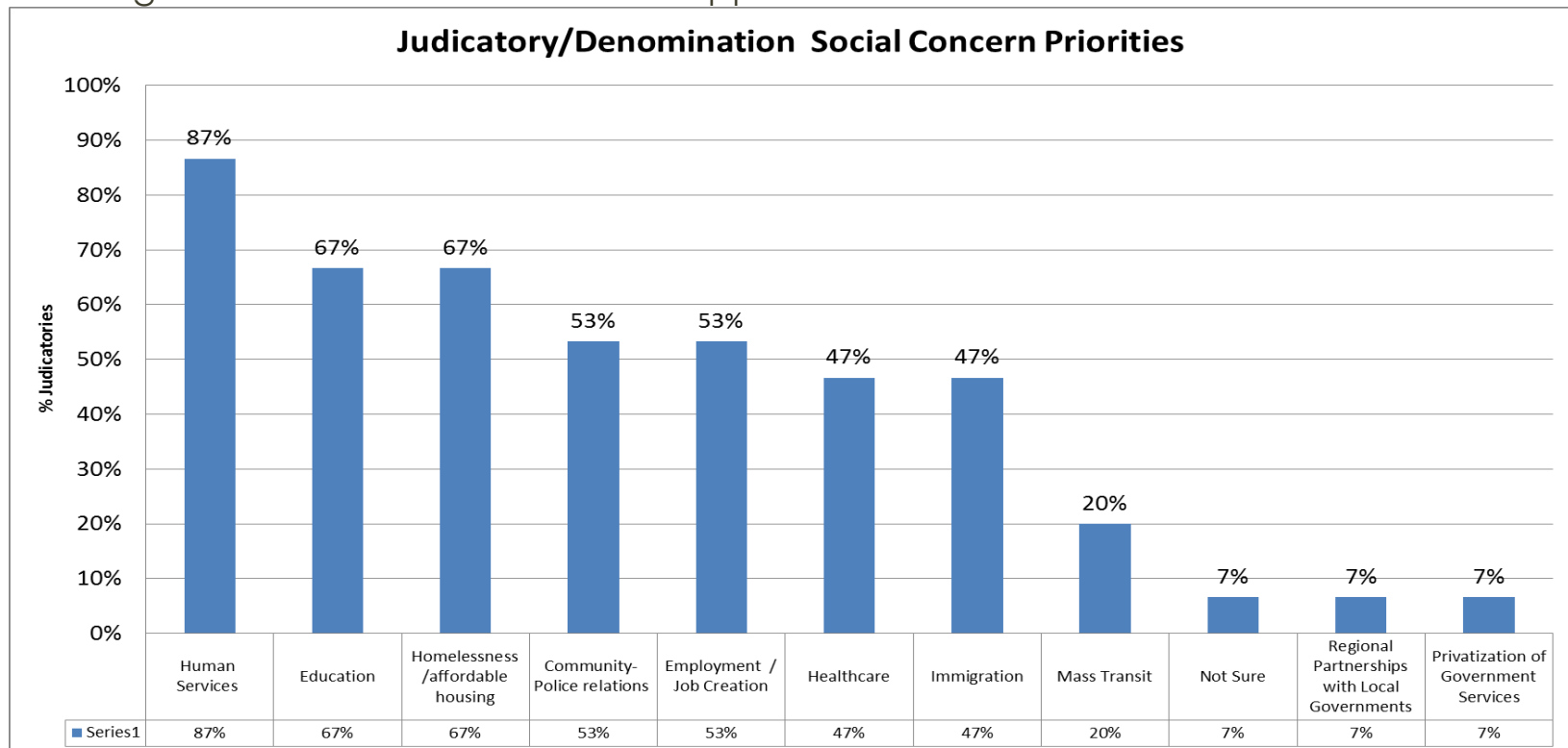
| Top 5 Judicatory Concerns (Survey) | Top 5 Congregation Concerns (Survey) | Top 5 Priorities to be addressed in next 5 years (Survey) | Top 5 2013 Social Concerns (Judicatory Votes) | Top 5 2014 Social Concerns (Judicatory Votes) |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Human Services | Reducing Hunger | Human Services | *Community-Police Relations/Justice Reform | *Human Services/ Hunger/ Medicaid Expansion |
| Education | Education | Community-Police Relations / Justice Reform | *Homelessness / Affordable Housing | *Employment/Job Creation and Training |
| Homelessness / Affordable housing | Homelessness / Affordable housing | Homelessness | Employment/Job Creation and Training | Homelessness / Affordable Housing |
| Community-Police Relations / Justice Reform | Human Services | Education | Immigration | Community-Police Relations/Justice Reform |
| Employment | Immigration | Employment | Education | Public Education: Pre K – College and Career Training |

Executive Summary

- Additional findings of the survey reflect a diversity of aspiring citizens attending congregations. Almost one-third (32%) of the congregations state that aspiring or new U.S. citizens are members of their congregations representing more than 30 different regions and countries.
- Respondents state that members within their congregations get involved with social concerns because of personal experience, sacred teachings, and the desire for social justice.
- Congregations generally interpret MARCC's mission as focusing on common faith values-- rather than what separates the religions-- while working together towards improving the human condition here in the greater Cincinnati region.
- Overall, most respondents state that there was no awareness or low awareness of MARCC (67%) in their congregations and recommend sponsoring interfaith activities (63%) and publicity in the media (61%) to increase awareness.

Judicatory Social Concern Priorities

- Almost 9 in 10 (87%) of the congregations state that their judicatory priorities center around human services (such as hunger, welfare, food and nutrition) followed by education (67%), and homelessness (67%).
- 3 judicatories included other concerns that are priorities and not included in MARCC's categories and can be found in the appendix.

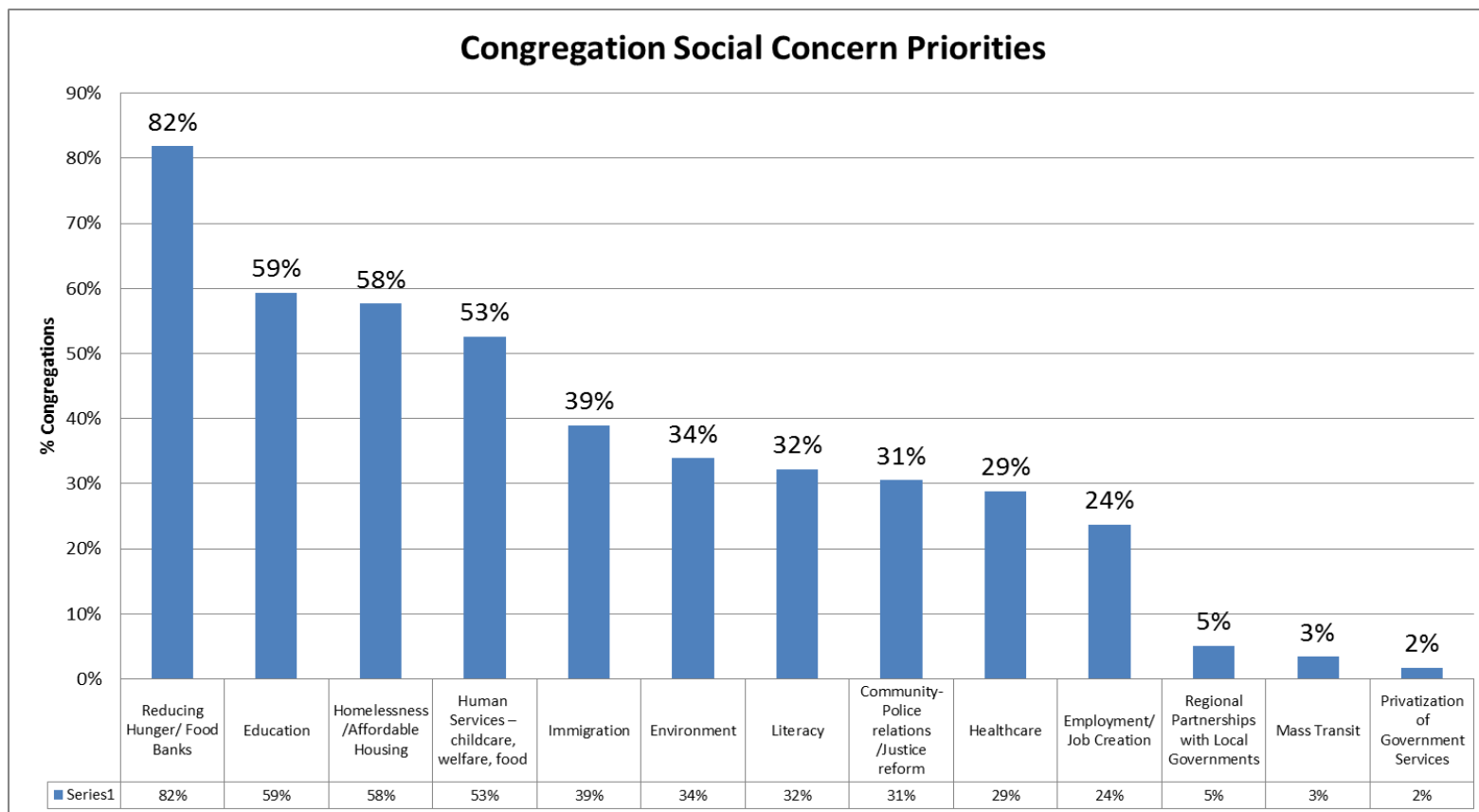


n=15

Q5. To the best of your knowledge, what community and regional social concerns are priorities for your judicatory /denomination for 2013?
(Please check all that apply):

Individual Congregation Social Concern Priorities

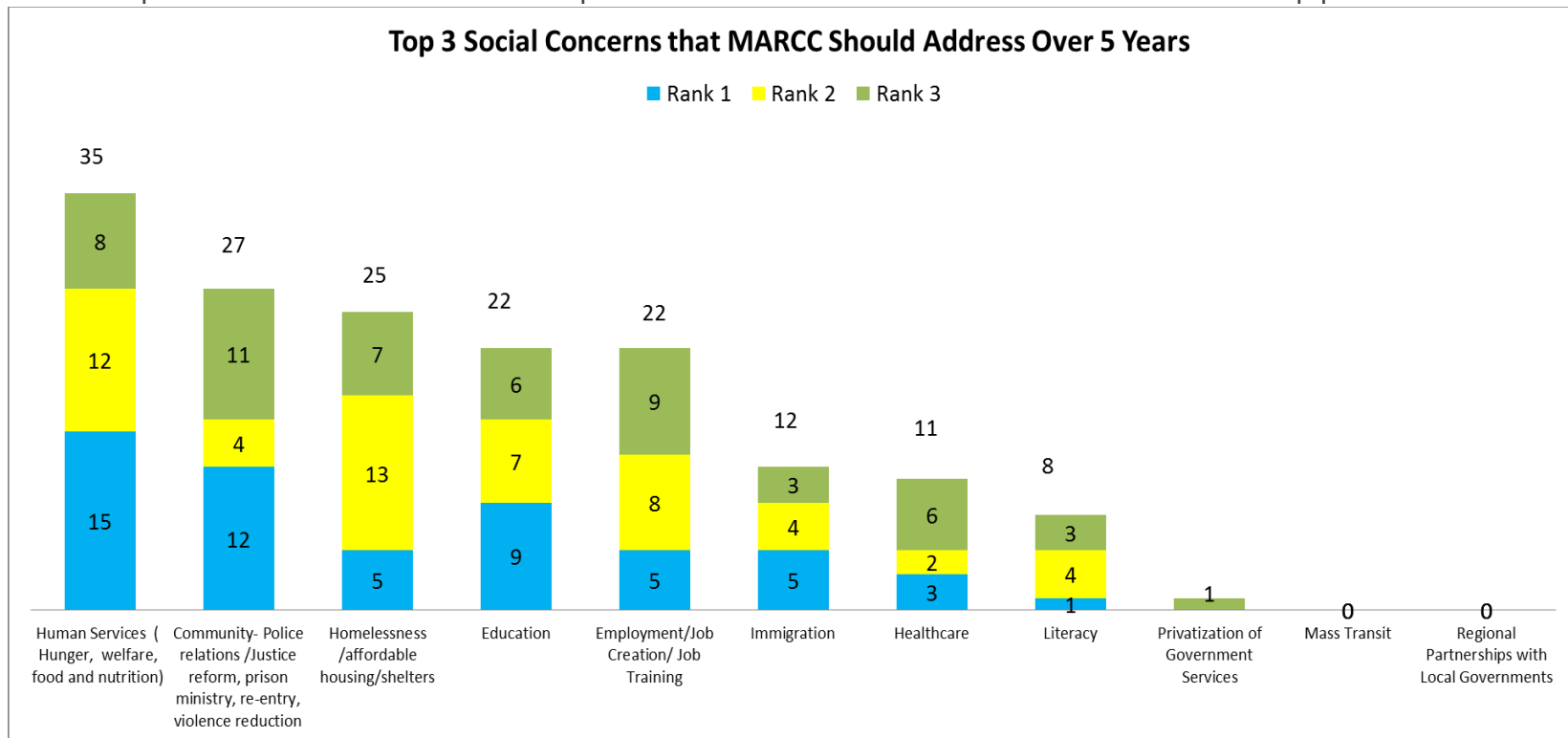
- The most common concern for congregations is reducing hunger (82%), followed by education (59%) and homelessness (58%).
- Half of the congregations have other social concerns that are priorities not reflected in MARCC's categories and can be found in the appendix.



Q6. The following are community and regional social concerns with which your individual congregation may be involved. Please check all of the concerns that you plan to commit funds and/or volunteers to, advocate for, or plan to educate your congregations about for 2013. Please check all that apply.

Social Concerns for Greater Cincinnati in the next 5 years

- The 75 congregations were asked to rank the top three social concerns that MARCC should address for Greater Cincinnati in the next five years. Human Services was ranked the number one issue (35 congregations selected as either their first, second or third choice), followed by community police relations (27), and homelessness (25).
- Respondents included other priorities as well and are included in the appendix.



n=75

Q7. Please rank the top three social concerns that you believe MARCC should be addressing during the next five years in the Greater Cincinnati metropolitan area. Place a 1 by your first choice, 2 by your second choice and a 3 by your third choice.

Why Congregations Get Involved With Social Concerns

Congregations were asked why members get involved with social concerns. Three common themes emerged from these responses.

1. Personal Experience:

- *“Some of them have suffered from injustice, some of them work for non-profits that work with the disenfranchised or disadvantaged, and some of them are simply Christians who understand the gospel message to be concerned for justice. ”*
- *“Our historical experience, religious teachings .”*
- *“Many people in my congregation are effected by various social concerns and have been encouraged to be a voice for themselves and others. They have taken this encouragement and decided to get involved.”*
- *“Hands on involvement with people. Any advocacy is likely to arise from personal interaction with others who have needs.”*

2. Sacred Teachings:

- *“The obligation to better the world is a central tenet of Judaism.”*
- *“G-d's pleasure and reward for their actions and support for their religious community.”*
- *“The gospel mandate to care for one another .”*

3. Desire for Social Justice

- *“Social Justice is the right thing to pursue. Not everyone that goes to church hears the Gospel - they are exposed to it, but they don't hear or choose not to hear. ”*
- *“Justice is part of the foundation of our faith.”*

Interpretation of MARCC's Mission

- Congregations were asked to tell in their own words what MARCC's mission means in the context of inter-faith problem solving. A common theme was to combine efforts by focusing on our common faith traditions- rather than what separates us- and strive for social justice.

"It means that MARCC is committed to the process of finding common ground solutions and ways in which we can be community and make an impact on social issues impacting ALL people. With this I would imagine it also means MARCC is committed to dialogue and coalition building, and even some consensus building."

"Focusing on points of agreement for the sake of the greater good whenever possible."

"There is a huge variety of belief systems among MARCC's member congregations/ judicatories. In order to walk the common path we have to live out our belief in tolerance - in its original sense of respect for differences. IF we can do that, we can come together and make use of the power in numbers that Membership in MARCC offers."

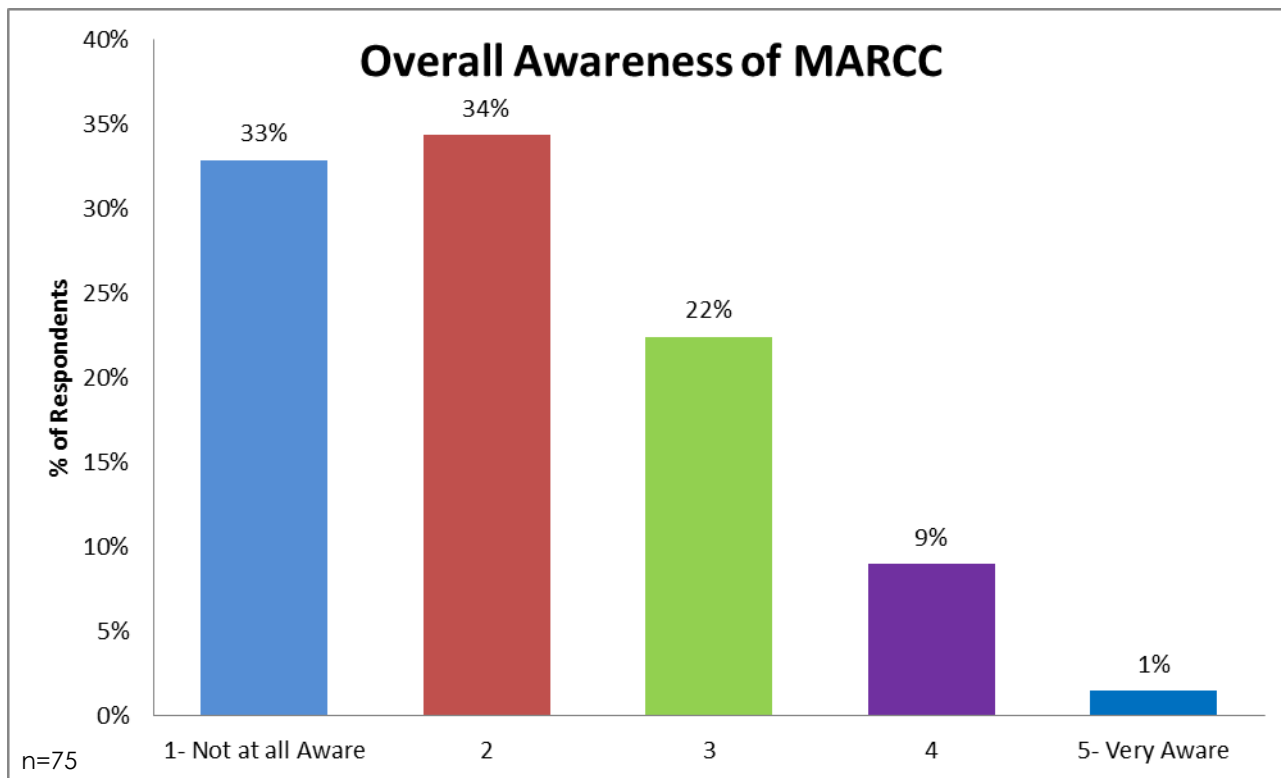
"The aim and struggle to have humanity return in heart, mind and spirit to our original form that reflects and celebrates our shared human essence is a lifelong generational task that is best led by diverse faith communities joined together by our common life purpose-SERVICE."

Q.13 [OPTIONAL] MARCC's mission is "To forgo the luxury of separate ways when a common path can be found" concerning social concerns in our local region. In the context of inter-faith problem solving, what does this mission mean to you and your congregation?

Awareness of MARCC

- When asked how aware the congregation was of MARCC, two-thirds (67%) replied “Not at All Aware” or a 2 on a five point scale.
- 22% state a neutral 3, with 10% indicating an awareness of MARCC (4 or a 5- “Very Aware”).

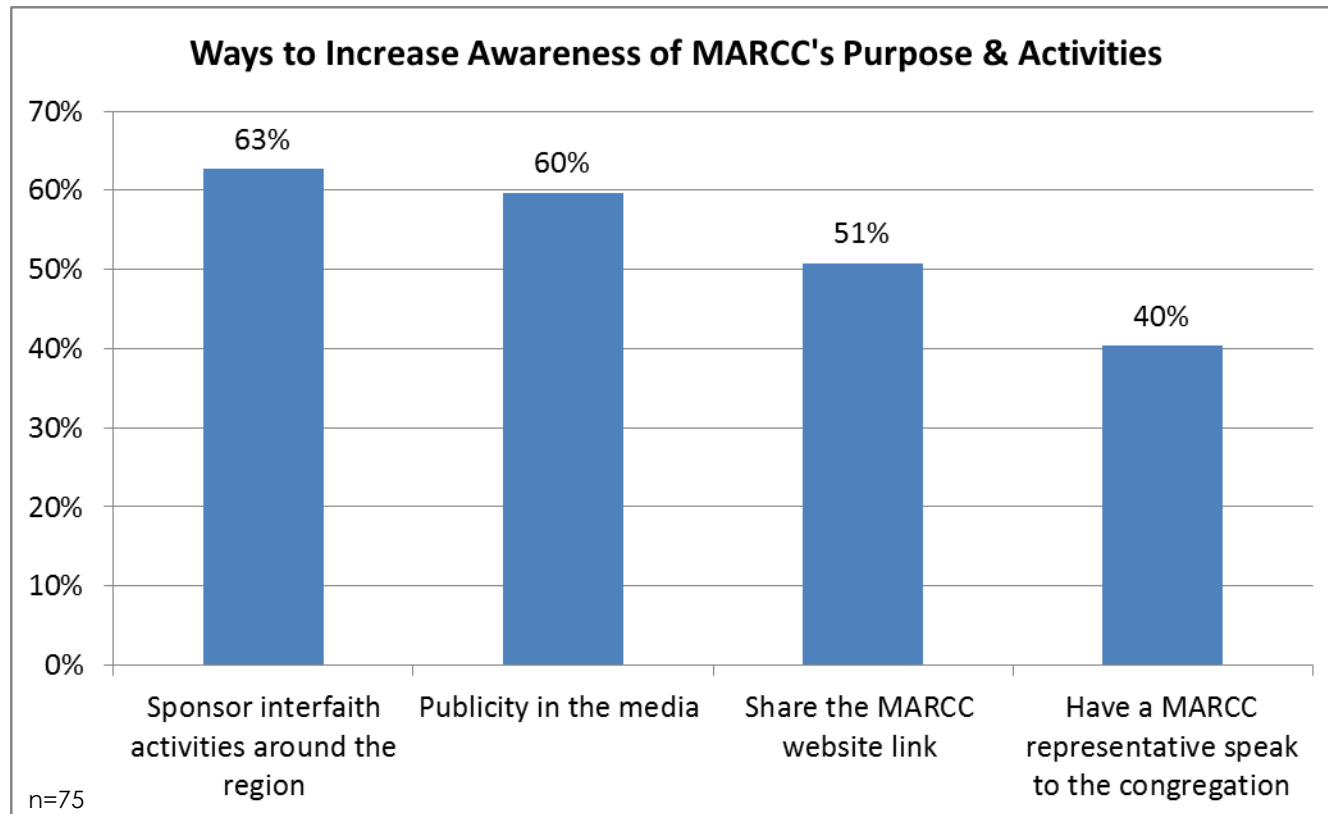
n=75



On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being “Not At All Aware” and 5 being “Very Aware”, how aware in general is your denomination or congregation about the Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati (MARCC)?

Increasing Awareness of MARCC's Purpose & Activities

- More than half of the congregations believe that sponsoring interfaith activities (63%) and publicity in the media (60%) will increase awareness of MARCC's mission.
- Several congregations have other suggestions to improve awareness and are listed in the appendix.



Q4. In what ways can MARCC increase awareness of its purpose and activities? [Check all that apply]

Appendix:

“Other” Responses- Q 4,5,6,7

Respondent Profile

Open-Ended Responses

Survey

“Other” Priorities Mentioned in Survey Questions

The following list other issues mentioned by respondents in the survey; some of these were mentioned only once. They are listed here simply to acknowledge the range of issues of concern to congregations and judicatories.

○ **Q5- “Other” judicatory social concerns:** Ending the death penalty, Ending abortion, Environmental Stewardship, Gay Rights, Religion in the Public Square, Women’s Reproductive Rights,

○ **Q6- “Other” congregational social concerns:** Children growing up in homes with a history of substance abuse, Death penalty, Emergency financial assistance, Ending abortion, Ending racism, Equal Housing and Employment Act, Euthanasia, Fair Trade, Family farms, Gay rights, Global solidarity – international peace and justice, Organ donation, Religion in the public square, Seniors, Substance abuse recovery and prevention, Summer food and enrichment program, Women’s reproductive rights.

○ **Q7- “Other” MARCC priorities over 5 years:** Environmental stewardship, Fundraising, Hate/Speech intolerance, Interfaith dialog, Prayer summit for the community, Pre-school readiness, Equal housing.

○ **Q4- “Other” suggestions to improve MARCC awareness:**

- “Get on agenda to present to various community councils, like minded organizations with similar focus, and possibly conduct regional information sessions for elected officials, leaders of for profit and non-profit leaders.”
- “Have a presence at denominational and community events.”
- “*Issue oriented stories, talking points, advocacy encouragement, white papers for use by congregations, for redistribution electronically, and for presentation before small groups of concerned UM’s.*”
- “No one cares until there is a relationship and there will be no relationship unless it is expressed that you all care about the congregation's issues.”

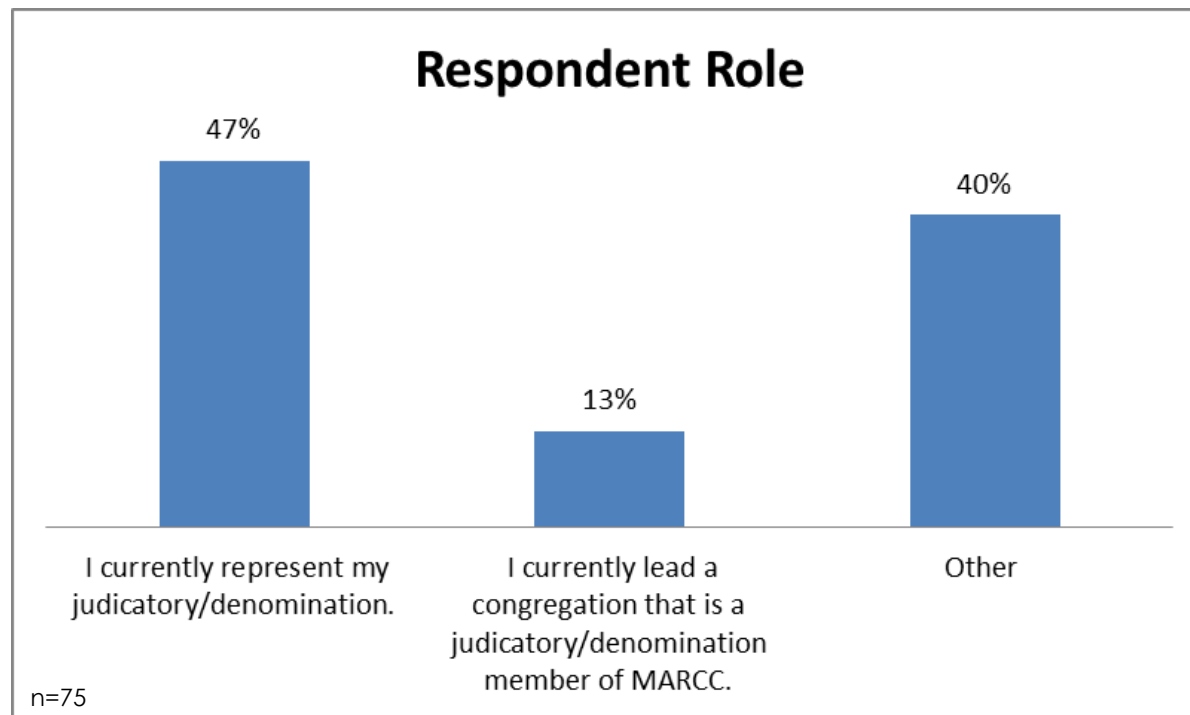
Survey Respondents

| Judicatory | # of respondents |
|--|------------------|
| Archdiocese of Cincinnati- Roman Catholic | 17 |
| Association of Unity Churches | 1 |
| Baptist Ministers Conference of Greater Cincinnati & Vicinity | 3 |
| Church of the Living God | 1 |
| Diocese of Southern Ohio- Episcopal | 7 |
| Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Greater Cincinnati | 1 |
| Cincinnati Islamic Center | 1 |
| Jewish Community Relations Council | 6 |
| Cincinnati Conference- Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) | 1 |
| Presbytery of Cincinnati | 6 |
| Religious Society of Friends | 1 |
| Unitarian Universalist Council | 3 |
| United Church of Christ – Southern OH Northern KY Association | 4 |
| OH River Valley District – United Methodist Church | 22 |
| Volunteers of America of Greater Ohio | 1 |
| Total | 75 |

Q1. Please select your judicatory/denomination. Q3 Please check one of the following statements that best describe your current relationship with MARCC and the judicatory/denomination you selected in the previous question. Q8. Approximately how many active members were there in your congregation during 2012?

Information about Survey Respondents

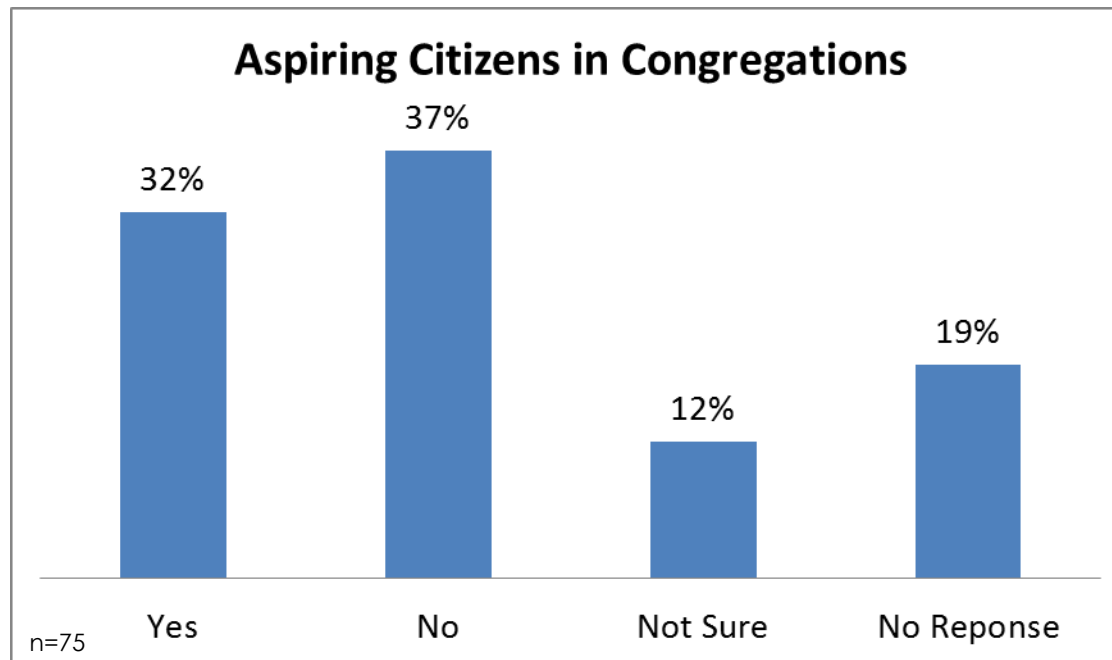
- Other roles identified include: Chairs of committees, retired clergy, or church support staff.



Q3 Please check one of the following statements that best describe your current relationship with MARCC and the judicatory/denomination you selected in the previous question. You answered 'other role'. Can you please specify?

Aspiring and New U.S. Citizens

- Almost a third of the congregations (32%) state that there are aspiring or new U.S. citizens that are members. (See below for definition of aspiring citizens.)



Q9. Are any members of your religious congregation immigrants who are now U.S. citizens or aspiring citizens? Q10 . Please name the countries the immigrants/aspiring citizens are from originally.

Aspiring and New U.S. Citizens Countries

- 36 regions and countries of origin were identified.

| | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Africa | Israel |
| Argentina | Japan |
| Brazil | Korea |
| Canada | Latin America |
| Central America | Liberia |
| Chile | Mexico |
| China | Moldova |
| Colombia | New Zealand |
| Cuba | Phillipines |
| Eastern Europe | Puerto Rico |
| Egypt | Russia/FSU |
| England | Singapore |
| Former Soviet Union | South Africa |
| Germany | South America |
| Ghania | Togo |
| Greece | USSR |
| Guyana | Vietnam |
| Holland | Yugoslavia |

Q9. Are any members of your religious congregation immigrants who are now U.S. citizens or aspiring citizens? Q10 . Please name the countries the immigrants/aspiring citizens are from originally.

21- OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES

| ID / JUDICATORY | What do you think draws your denomination or people in your congregation to become involved in social concerns? | MARCC's mission in context of interfaith problem solving, what does this mission mean to you and your congregation? | Is there anything you would like to share with us at MARCC? |
|------------------------|---|---|---|
| 7293544 Archdiocese | A deep respect for Catholic Social Justice | That we can work together for the common good of all peoples. | |
| 9251212 Archdiocese | The Golden Rule: Do Unto Others..... | It would increase the likelihood of success in our efforts. | |
| 7388758 Archdiocese | the parish is predominantly African American and as a racially mixed parish issues of social justice is of great concern. Catholic social teaching require and investment by the parish and its individual member in social and justice concerns. | a common effort toward resolving social concern is in line with the desire of the parish and its members. Church of the Resurrection and seeks to with with other faiths as partners and had done this historically, even has it relates to the parishes that have consolidated (St. Marks, St. Andrews, St. Agnes and St. Martin DePorres) to become Church of the Resurrection. | We look Forward to working with you |
| 2416669 Archdiocese | knowledge of outreach opportunities and understanding of the need for situational compassion | The idea we are all in this together and our responsibility as a Christian to love one another | Find things that benefit us all and publicize them in media and directly. |

22 OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES

| ID / JUDICATORY | What do you think draws your denomination or people in your congregation to become involved in social concerns? | MARCC's mission in context of interfaith problem solving, what does this mission mean to you and your congregation? | Is there anything you would like to share with us at MARCC? |
|------------------------|--|---|---|
| 2100513 Archdiocese | Our parish is in a low-income neighborhood, and although the majority of our congregation don't live in Madisonville, they are aware of the social concerns related to poverty and racism. This particular church has been a community that has been engaged with Catholic Social Teaching for many years and that has been one of the reasons that people come here from all over town. Some of them have suffered from injustice, some of them work for non-profits that work with the disenfranchised or disadvantaged, and some of them are simply Christians who understand the gospel message to be concerned for justice. | It means that instead of emphasizing the differences that may exist between faiths, to focus on that which makes us similar. Everyone preaches some variation of the golden rule. This congregation is very open to the truths that lie within all religions and to working on solutions in the context of inter-faith relationships. | |
| 1877838 Archdiocese | Impact on them or family member, education and awareness in community | We need to work together rather than in competition. We should work to lift entire community | |

23 OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES

| ID / JUDICATORY | What do you think draws your denomination or people in your congregation to become involved in social concerns? | MARCC's mission in context of interfaith problem solving, what does this mission mean to you and your congregation? | Is there anything you would like to share with us at MARCC? |
|------------------------|--|---|--|
| 2483886 Archdiocese | Achieving the church's mission of building a more just society that preserves human dignity and promote solidarity | Great challenges are overcome when people of good faith come together to achieve positive changes. Organization involved in social changes will find valuable resources within the MARCC to achieve their goals | Not at the moment but will do in the future |
| 2011870 Archdiocese | The gospel mandate to care for one another | | |
| 8029404 Archdiocese | Having personal experiences that help them understand the need for social justice | | |
| 7171907 Archdiocese | It's part of our mission and vision statements. | | |
| 1599651 Archdiocese | Their own personal experiences that make them want to make a change or get more information. | Being more aware of other faiths and interacting with them more. | |
| 3799568 Archdiocese | Principles of Catholic social justice | don't know | |
| 5694363 Archdiocese | Gospel teachings | | |
| 5601964 Archdiocese | As stated in their mission statement, the Sisters of Charity strive to live Gospel values. | | |
| 1958264 Archdiocese | Their Christian belief is to help their neighbor | Dialogue is essential when discussing approaches to social concerns. Trusting and respecting others' ideas and opinions. Be willing to enter into areas of challenge | I appreciate the work that you do, but I am not at all acquainted with how you operate. Perhaps that is because I have not availed myself to your organization, due to time constraints. |

24 OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES

| ID / JUDICATORY | What do you think draws your denomination or people in your congregation to become involved in social concerns? | MARCC's mission in context of interfaith problem solving, what does this mission mean to you and your congregation? | Is there anything you would like to share with us at MARCC? |
|------------------------------|---|---|--|
| 7552348 Archdiocese | Personally, I am a Franciscan. Social Justice is the right thing to pursue. Not everyone that goes to church hears the Gospel - they are exposed to it, but they don't hear or choose not to hear. Our Archdiocese's Climate Change Taskforce are all like minded people, they all appear to be socially responsible and are members by choice. | Social Justice and the Common Good are non-denominational. | Have a good day. |
| 4733543 Archdiocese | Personal experience | To compromise some of our individual faith beliefs for the common good. To be able to solve problems putting social concerns and people first, as opposed to a faith-based agenda. | |
| 8281586 BMC | The Teachings of Scripture! | It means putting into daily practice the example and teachings of Jesus Christ as found in scripture. | Not at this time! I am already on the Mailing list of MARCC. |
| 6247518 BMC | They see them related to Jesus' Ministry. It is expressed in action Ministry. | This indicates that MARCC is ONE and more can be accomplished together as opposed separately. | |
| 2692714 Church of Living God | We are very concerned about the plight of the under served and less fortunate. We pray for the heart and mind of Christ. As Christians we are commissioned to take care of the poor. | | |
| 3623151 Episcopal | Exposure to issues and to people in need and the prompting of the Holy Spirit. | Because we are, and always have been, a dual denomination, this makes perfect sense to us. We have always avoided separation along denominational lines when we are serving others. | |

25 OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES

| ID / JUDICATORY | What do you think draws your denomination or people in your congregation to become involved in social concerns? | MARCC's mission in context of interfaith problem solving, what does this mission mean to you and your congregation? | Is there anything you would like to share with us at MARCC? |
|------------------------|--|---|--|
| 9257311 IMA | Many people in my congregation are effected by various social concerns and have been encouraged to be a voice for themselves and others. They have taken this encouragement and decided to get involved. | It means that MARCC is committed to the process of finding common ground solutions and ways in which we can be community and make an impact on social issues impacting ALL people. With this I would imagine it also means MARCC is committed to dialogue and coalition building, and even some consensus building. | |
| 3079345 Islamic Center | G-d's pleasure and reward for their actions and support for their religious community. | The aim and struggle to have humanity return in heart, mind and spirit to our original form that reflects and celebrates our shared human essence is a lifelong generational task that is best led by diverse faith communities joined together by our common life purpose-SERVICE. | Yes, Thank G-d and thank you for your existence! |
| 1359348 Jewish CRC | Our historical experience, religious teachings | Social issues affect people of all faiths, and we are concerned about the welfare of all, no matter what faith they may profess. | |
| 7859581 Jewish CRC | Justice is part of the foundation of our faith | It's speaks to the heart of our struggles with our homeland | |
| 5069323 Jewish CRC | The obligation to better the world is a central tenet of Judaism. | Focusing on points of agreement for the sake of the greater good whenever possible. | |
| 7774396 Jewish CRC | Traditional Jewish values, religious leadership, American social consciousness | Our congregation would certainly endorse this provided religious/theological boundaries and sensitivities were respected and religious pluralism defined the efforts as did inclusivity of program content and language (e.g., in interfaith services).. | A question: does MARCC presently have a position/policy on inclusive prayer for interfaith services or for MARCC members who participate with clergy of different faiths at services and ceremonies? |

26 OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES

| ID / JUDICATORY | What do you think draws your denomination or people in your congregation to become involved in social concerns? | MARCC's mission in context of interfaith problem solving, what does this mission mean to you and your congregation? | Is there anything you would like to share with us at MARCC? |
|-------------------------|---|--|---|
| 5280675 Presbyterian | They see a problem and they want to do what they can to be Jesus' hands and feet in the world. | Because we are in a rural area there is very little interaction between different faith traditions. | |
| 3488904 Presbyterian | Christian beliefs | It means that people of faith can and should work together to combat some of the problems of our society, such as hunger, healthcare, shelter and education. | |
| 2779253 Presbyterian | When the issue relates to them or friends or family | It means that working together we can accomplish that which we could not do alone | |
| 1903994 Presbyterian | see a need first hand or talk to people who are already volunteering in an area of concern | everyone working together on a particular solution and modifying it as needs change or results vary | |
| 6335853 Presbyterian | Teachings in the scriptures, national church has historical emphasis on Mission and service, members have strong desires to reach out to others in the community who are experiencing financial challenges, mission is an important part of congregational life and has many advocates in the congregation. | We are partners with seven other churches in our community in the operation of a food and clothing bank for residents of our area. We contribute volunteers and financially. We were one of the original 8 hosting congregations of the Interfaith Hospitality Network and have continued our involvement until this day. Many social concerns can be addressed on an area wide basis more effectively than on a solo basis. | I feel that MARCC is an important and vital organization in our community whose work is not widely known by people in the pews. |

27 OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES

| ID / JUDICATORY | What do you think draws your denomination or people in your congregation to become involved in social concerns? | MARCC's mission in context of interfaith problem solving, what does this mission mean to you and your congregation? | Is there anything you would like to share with us at MARCC? |
|---|---|---|---|
| 9681667 Presbyterian | The Bible. | | No |
| 8926044 Religious Society of Friends | Some are motivated by a strong social conscience; others by a sense of being "led" by the Spirit—a sort of "I cannot do otherwise" state of being. Also, the strong tradition among Friends of being active in social concerns. | I imagine most people in my congregation would agree in principle, but honestly, there does not seem to be a strong urge toward "interfaith" work; in fact, my particular congregation doesn't seem much interested even in working with other Quaker meetings. | I deeply appreciate what MARCC has done and continues to do, though I have not been successful at engaging my congregation very deeply with its work. Cincinnati Friends is in Indian Hill, which is outside the city of Cincinnati, though none of the people who attend Cincinnati Friends Meeting actually LIVE in Indian Hill—they all drive from some distance to worship together on Sundays. The immediacy of local neighborhood issues is lessened by the fact that our community is based solely on what we do together at the Meetinghouse, which is remote from where we live... |
| 4969368 Unitarian | A belief in the inherent worth of every person. Conviction that we have a responsibility to help each other, to create a level playing field through education & just legislation so that more people may acquire the tools to prosper. | There is a huge variety of belief systems among MARCC's member congregations/judicatories. IN order to walk the common path we have to live out our belief in tolerance - in its original sense of respect for differences. IF we can do that, we can come together and make use of the power in numbers that Membership in MARCC offers. | |

28 OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES

| ID / JUDICATORY | What do you think draws your denomination or people in your congregation to become involved in social concerns? | MARCC's mission in context of interfaith problem solving, what does this mission mean to you and your congregation? | Is there anything you would like to share with us at MARCC? |
|------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| 9468477 United Church of Christ | Their understanding of the Christian walk, which includes working for justice, fairness, the widow, the orphan, the marginalized, as modeled by Jesus. | To me, this simply means focusing on faith in a higher power and work for the common good, which can be done more effectively and with power, when we combine our efforts into a strong and consistent voice. | I am already on your mailing list. I applaud the work of MARCC in providing an interfaith voice in the public arena. Social issues should be addressed by people of faith. If we go our separate ways, we are missing the opportunity to be a force for good in the world. |
| 6816983 United Methodist | Seeing how real people are impacted by social concerns draws people to become involved in initiatives. | This mission means that my congregation probably will not be involved in MARCC initiatives, because finding a common path is too difficult for many in my congregation to begin try to work towards. Many are much more concerned about personal luxury and separation from the problems of the world than seeking common ground, unless of course that common path takes them on a mission trip to another country. | I hope that MARCC has great success in interfaith ministries, however, I do not believe that my church will wish to be involved as they have been given many opportunities to do similar things in the past and have chosen the path of isolationism and separation. I am sorry that we could not be of more assistance. |
| 6875183 United Methodist | Commands of Jesus | | |
| 3487623 United Methodist | it is a part of United Methodist DNA | The bold and proper path | |

29 OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES

| ID / JUDICATORY | What do you think draws your denomination or people in your congregation to become involved in social concerns? | MARCC's mission in context of interfaith problem solving, what does this mission mean to you and your congregation? | Is there anything you would like to share with us at MARCC? |
|---------------------------------|--|---|---|
| 5291305 United Methodist | In the United Methodist church social justice is at the root of who we are. So it's always a strong focal point for messages, classes and programming. | Micah 6:8 | |
| 3437664 United Methodist | Wesleyan principles: "The world is my parish." and "There is no holiness, but social holiness!" | As much as we are able, work with others. | |
| 5623832 United Methodist | Hands on involvement with people. Any advocacy is likely to arise from personal interaction with others who have needs. | Frankly, I would be hard pressed to say. We work in several partnerships, primarily among Christian denominations/churches. | |
| 6065365 United Methodist | Jesus Christ has those concerns and expects his followers to share them. | We are stronger together than we are apart. Truly creative and transformational solutions can come from many sources. We should look for those creative opportunities and join with one another in implementing them. | |
| 9369754 United Methodist | Deliberate work towards a vision to be hospitable and Christ like. The need that is apparent I our community | Really my assumption is little to nothing. We have had little contact from or with the group on our side of | |
| 5176773 United Church of Christ | Theological Passion. Faith Based Ethics. UCC historically a leader in social concerns. | Excellent vision and a response based on a faith-centered theological commitment to an ecumenical vision of mission awareness. | |

30 OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES

| ID / JUDICATORY | What do you think draws your denomination or people in your congregation to become involved in social concerns? | MARCC's mission in context of interfaith problem solving, what does this mission mean to you and your congregation? | Is there anything you would like to share with us at MARCC? |
|-----------------------------|--|--|---|
| 9773402 United Methodist | Theologically, an appreciation to God for involving Himself in their concerns. | Find common concerns to be dealt with and pool resources to problem solve such concerns. | |
| 7318334 Unity Churches | Personalizing issues with individuals problems or issues. Combined with concise data. | A search for common ground and issues that touch us all. | I would like to combine actions with the issues we chose. |
| 4250712 VOA | It is our judicatories doctrine of principle about helping those in our society who are in need of help as well as to be open to "loving thy neighbor" and not judging people based upon anything. It is this inclusivity for all human beings that guide our denomination's focus that clearly impacts all people and the need to lift a hand up to people in need. | It means that regardless of the differences of religions and perhaps a religious stance on controversial topics within their judicatory, that there is always a way to love all people which should allow all members to step out of their religious beliefs to rally around helping our fellow citizen. Unity comes to mind as it relates to loving all people. | MARCC could stand as an example how although various faiths have their own traditions and belief, that multiple perspectives are very important in creating unit for all people. I believe MARCC stands out as a terrific example of our freedom of religion and how we all can come together around causes that help and uplift the lives of all people. When you see how much religion has torn apart and given cover for wars around the globe, MARCC stands as a prime example that there is room for everyone to respect individual's belief while still caring about all people. Great job MARCC on proving unity can work...and work well. |

Survey

MARCC Online Judiciary Member Survey For Congregations

E-mail Introduction Letter with Survey Link: Thank you for taking the time to fill out this brief 10 minute confidential survey that will help the Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati (MARCC) better understand the geographical scope and long-term social concerns of our 17 member judicatories / denominations. To get started please click on the below link. If you start the survey and cannot complete it, you can leave the survey at any time. Just click on the above survey link to get back into the survey. Please do not forward this survey to anyone, as this survey is specifically assigned to you. If you have any technical problems with the survey, please contact Kristin Kremer at ckkremer@fuse.net 513-608-8941. MARCC sincerely appreciates your opinions and feedback that will enable us to better complete our mission. Thanks again. Margaret Fox MARCC Executive Director

[Click here to take survey](#)

Q1. Please select your judicatory/denomination.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archdiocese of Cincinnati- Roman Catholic | <input type="checkbox"/> Jewish Community Relations Council |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Association of Unity Churches- | <input type="checkbox"/> Miami Association – American Baptists |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baptist Ministers Conference of Greater Cincinnati & Vicinity | <input type="checkbox"/> OH River Valley District – United Methodist Church |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Church of the Living God | <input type="checkbox"/> Presbytery of Cincinnati |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cincinnati Conference- Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious Society of Friends |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cincinnati Islamic Center | <input type="checkbox"/> Unitarian Universalist Council |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disciples of Christ, Southwest Ohio | <input type="checkbox"/> United Church of Christ – Southern OH Northern KY Association |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Diocese of Southern Ohio- Episcopal | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteers of America of Greater Ohio |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Greater Cincinnati | |

Survey

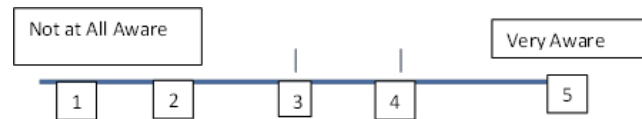
Q2.

Please check one of the following statements that best describe your current relationship with MARCC and the judicatory/denomination you selected in the previous question.

1. I currently represent my judicatory/denomination.
2. I currently lead a congregation that is a judicatory/denomination member of MARCC.
3. Other (please specify) _____

Q 3.

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being "Not At All Aware" and 5 being "Very Aware", how aware in general is your denomination or congregation about the Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati (MARCC)?



Q4. In what ways can MARCC increase awareness of its purpose and activities? [Check all that apply]

- Have a MARCC representative speak to the congregation
- Sponsor inter-faith activities around the region
- Share the MARCC website link
- Other (please specify)
- Publicity in the media

Q5. To the best of your knowledge, what community and regional social concerns are priorities for your judicatory /denomination for 2013? (Please check all that apply):

- Homelessness /affordable housing/shelters
- Literacy
- Immigration
- Education
- Community- Police relations /Justice reform, prison ministry, re-entry, violence reduction
- Healthcare
- Privatization of Government Services
- Employment/Job Creation/ Job Training
- Mass Transit
- Human Services (Hunger, welfare, food and nutrition)

Survey

Q6.

The following are community and regional social concerns with which your individual congregation may be involved. Please check all of the concerns that you plan to commit funds and/or volunteers to, advocate for, or plan to educate your congregations about for 2013. Please check all that apply.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Homelessness / Affordable housing/shelters | <input type="checkbox"/> Literacy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Immigration | <input type="checkbox"/> Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community- Police relations /Justice reform, prison ministry, re-entry, violence reduction | <input type="checkbox"/> Healthcare |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Privatization of Government Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Employment/Job Creation/ Job Training |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mass Transit | <input type="checkbox"/> Human Services – such as childcare, welfare, food and nutrition) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Partnerships with Local Governments | <input type="checkbox"/> Environment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reducing Hunger/ Food Banks/ Community Gardens | <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> None of the Above | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) |

Q7. Please rank the top three social concerns that you believe MARCC should be addressing during the next five years in the Greater Cincinnati metropolitan area. Place a 1 by your first choice, 2 by your second choice and a 3 by your third choice.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Homelessness /affordable housing/shelters | <input type="checkbox"/> Literacy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Immigration | <input type="checkbox"/> Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community- Police relations /Justice reform, prison ministry, re-entry, violence reduction | <input type="checkbox"/> Healthcare |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Privatization of Government Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Employment/Job Creation/ Job Training |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mass Transit | <input type="checkbox"/> Human Services (Hunger, welfare, food and nutrition) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Partnerships with Local Governments | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)—If other please specify |

Survey

Please answer the following questions about your congregation for MARCC's planning purposes.

Q8. Approximately how many active members were there in your congregation during 2012?

Q9. Are any members of your religious congregation immigrants who are now U.S. citizens or aspiring citizens?

1. Yes
2. No

Q10. Please name the countries the immigrants/aspiring citizens are from originally.

Q11. Please include your congregation name, address, and zip code. At the end of the survey we ask your permission to keep this information.

Q12. [OPTIONAL] What do you think draws your denomination or people in your congregation to become involved in social concerns?

Q.13 [OPTIONAL] MARCC's mission is *"To forgo the luxury of separate ways when a common path can be found"* concerning social concerns in our local region. In the context of inter-faith problem solving, what does this mission mean to you and your congregation?

Q14. [OPTIONAL]—OPEN-ENDED: Is there anything you would like to share with us at MARCC?

Q.15 [OPTIONAL]- Do you give MARCC permission to add your e-mail and address to our mailing list? (MARCC does not under any circumstances share emails/addresses unless there is agreement by the MARCC board for mission-related activities or conferences.)

1. Yes I give MARCC permission to keep this e-mail and mailing address.
2. No, I do not give MARCC permission to keep this e-mail and mailing address

Thank you! You have completed the survey. We hope to do this every year and look forward to sharing aggregated results with your judicatory. Sincerely, the 17 Judicatory Members of MARCC

Further information about MARCC

- MARCC concentrates on two social concerns annually selected by denominational representatives who attend an annual Fall Planning Conference. Over time some of those concerns have been community-police relations, public education and career readiness, homelessness/affordable housing, employment/job creation and training, hunger/human services, immigration and health care.
- Ways in which MARCC works are to learn, convene, send representatives, listen, interpret, inform and advocate. This work is done with decision-makers in local communities within the metropolitan region. Our interfaith coalition is non-partisan in its approach. In the process, MARCC tries to leave civic discourse at least a little better than we found it.
- To contact MARCC please find us on Facebook, Twitter, and www.marcconline.com
- For further information about this survey please contact Kristin Kremer, ELCA denomination, at 513.608.8941