

## **MISSION of the Interfaith Health Care Coalition**

### **Context**

Leadership from the Greater Rochester Community of Churches [GRCC] and Church Women United [CWU] gathered representatives from diverse faiths to address concerns of adequate health care for all members of the Rochester community. The impetus for this coalition comes from discussions in the community regarding the future of health care.

### **Mission Statement**

*The Rochester Interfaith Health Care Coalition seeks to ensure that all the citizens of the Rochester area are represented at the table when decisions are made regarding the future structure and policies of health care in Monroe County.*

*Our values, rooted in our religious convictions, lead us to speak out on behalf of all people, especially the poor and powerless, so that they have an effective voice in the community's planning and implementing changes in the health care system.*

*Our shared ethical principles, such as respect for the dignity of each person and the responsibility to care for our neighbor, compel us to organize our faith communities to stand with those who do not have voice in the halls of power.*

*We believe that a publicly funded, single-payer system is the most cost-efficient and fair way to provide health care for all.*

### **Values Flowing From Our Mission**

We value physical and mental health and believe that every individual, supported by the community, should be able to attain an optimal level of health within the framework of their own physical and mental potential, regardless of financial resources.

We value health care as a profession and believe its practice should be primarily dictated by the needs of patients rather than by employment and market considerations.

We value a holistic approach to care that recognizes the physical, mental, social and spiritual forces that affect each person's health.

We value the exercising of co-responsibility between patients and their providers in maintaining health and promoting wellness.

We value a communitarian response to insuring access to health care for all.

*For more information about the RIHCC, call the Greater Rochester Community of Churches at: 254-2570*