

MEMO TO JUDY SCHWARTZ  
FROM DICK GILBERT  
RE: REPORT ON BRIEFING FOR WEBSITE  
MARCH 30, 2017

Well over 100 people attended the 25th annual briefing sponsored by Interfaith Impact of New York State Rochester Chapter: “Black Lives Matter: An Approach to Building Beloved Community.”

The Black Lives Matter movement is often veiled in mystery and misunderstanding. A diverse panel discussed the meaning of BLM for persistent racism in Rochester and New York State. The program was opened by Nosym Tillmon and Shalinda Bollar, two black youth from Rochester’s Teen Empowerment program reciting original rap material providing a street level view of black youth. Two more black teens, Je’Carl Hill and Kiara Johnson continued the discussion and revealed what it is to be black in an urban culture.

The Rev. Julius D. Jackson, Jr., Senior Pastor of Salem United Church of Christ reflected on being father of black children and serving a center-city congregation. James Sheppard, member of Monroe County Legislature, former Rochester Chief of Police and current mayoral candidate presented a progressive view of police-community relationships and the need for a more integrated school system. The Rev. Richard S. Gilbert, President of Interfaith Impact, traced the history of Black Lives Matter and its role as a new form of the civil rights movement. His statement is posted on the IINYS website under “Sermons, Op-eds and Essays” [www.interfaithimpactnys.org](http://www.interfaithimpactnys.org).

The event was held at the Baptist Temple (Clover Center for Spirituality and the Arts) in Rochester Sunday, March 19.

IINYS is the progressive religious community’s voice for justice and human rights in New York State. We advocate for state policies that will improve the lives of all New Yorkers while stressing the moral and ethical values of these policies.