

EAST SHORE UNITARIAN CHURCH PEACEMAKING PLEDGE

As a peacemaking congregation, the members of East Shore Unitarian church pledge to build a culture of peace and justice within ourselves as individuals; within our families and neighborhoods; within our church; within our nation; and within the global community. This commitment grows out of and is an integral part of our core mission and values.

Inner Peacemaking

We pledge to provide a safe place for individuals to come to peace with themselves through self-forgiveness, introspection and exploration of their authentic selves. Through this process, we will learn to calm our inner struggles, gaining the freedom to act with love and compassion toward others.

Inter-Personal Peacemaking

We pledge to provide opportunities for learning peaceful ways to communicate with those around us. We will teach, encourage and practice respectful and non-violent approaches to conflict resolution within our families, congregation and community.

Societal Peacemaking

We pledge to address and challenge structural obstacles to peace in our society, such as poverty, racism and the glorification of violence in popular culture. We will bear public witness against practices, institutions and traditions that create conflict between individuals or groups. We will speak truth to power, challenging our local, state and national governments to address inequities and treat all members of society with dignity and respect.

Global Peacemaking

We pledge to consider ourselves members of a world-wide community, recognizing our ties with those in other nations and of other cultures. We will seek to understand the root causes of war in order to prevent it. We will exhort our world leaders to explore peaceful long-term solutions to international conflicts under the rule of law. We will work to provide comfort and security to those whose lives have been disrupted by war.

We, the congregation of East Shore Unitarian Church, on this 7th day of June, 2009, do hereby adopt this Peacemaking Pledge.

EXAMPLES OF PLANNED ACTIVITIES THAT SUPPORT OUR PEACEMAKING PLEDGE:

- “Peacemaking Potlucks” – Quarterly gatherings to learn about and discuss peace issues, featuring speakers or documentaries on a broad range of topics.
- Adult Education Classes to study peacemaking at all levels.
- Celebration of the International Day of Peace (Sept. 21st) each year.
- Letter-writing campaigns to state and national legislators on peace issues.
- Scheduling special speakers once or twice yearly with expertise on peace-related topics. These will be publicized to the local community.
- The PEACE Ministry Team will partner with the Youth Group to plan and jointly present various peace activities.
- Prayers for peace during regular Sunday services.
- Partner Church Ministry activities such as pen pals and trips to visit our partner churches.
- Public witness opportunities through participation in peace vigils and marches in the Puget Sound area.
- Second-Sunday offerings for groups addressing the needs of veterans, refugees and others impacted by war.
- Publicize various local peace events to the East Shore membership
- Integrate East Shore peace work with the UUA and UUSC peace efforts.