



Engaging Peace in Times of Conflict: Kalamazoo Faith Communities in Conversation

Saturday, November 3, 2007

9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Venue: Sambodh Center for Human Excellence
6363 North 24th Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49004

Sponsored by The Sambodh Society, Inc.

A non-profit religious 501(c) 3 Organization for the teaching of Vedanta and Meditation

Spiritual Director: Swami Bodhananda

Contact: (269) 327-3774 or 492-0544

WE INVITE YOU TO:

an extraordinary day of conversation and interaction among faith communities and leadership, to meet, listen to and interact with individuals in the Kalamazoo area who are active in addressing issues of peace as it pertains to one's self and others – the local community, the environment and the global community. Representatives from diverse traditions are gathering to talk about their efforts to build peace, personally, communally, and globally. By-passing theological differences, the focus of the conversation is human to human, based upon personal experience, and exploring the practical side of faith or faith in action: What are the sources of their inspiration, including mentors who have enlarged their awareness and encouraged their active engagement? What are the challenges they (and we) encountered, and the successes they experienced? What is the impact upon their personal lives, others' lives and/or the larger environment and community? How are we together positively instilling peace within, without and all around?

OUR COMMON GOALS ARE TO:

1. Address the issue of peace as it impacts the individual, community, environment, and global community
2. Create greater awareness among local faith communities relative to their efforts towards peace at all levels of human relationship.
3. Enhance dialogue between and among faith communities erasing the invisible barriers among diverse faith communities and fostering a common bond based upon human interaction and relationship.
4. Tap into our shared wisdom, compassion and responsibility as individuals and as faith communities in developing practical applications, and encouraging faith in action.
5. Create a network of dialogue and opportunity for greater interaction, understanding and active engagement.
6. Disseminate the proceedings of this forum to the local community through media and various networks and forms of publication.

SPEAKERS:

- 1) Robert Weir, Regional Director, *Department of Peace*: "Incentive and Instruction from Christ, Gandhi and King"
- 2) Jen and Mike Dewaele, *Peace House: Quaker-Catholic Worker Community*: "Peace House: Putting Faith into Action."
- 3) Sunder Hattangadi, *Sambodh Society*, and *Indo-American Cultural Center and Temple*: "Peace as Viewed in the Bhagavad Gita"
- 4) Rev. Jill Terwilliger, *Unitarian Universalist Community Church*: "Peace on the Wing"
- 5) Pastor Scott Oberlee, *United Church of Christ*: will speak on the theme of "Peace and the Environment"
- 6) Rev Mary Newman, *Unity Church*: will focus on "Dimensions of Inner Peace"
- 7) Eric Nelson, *Fetzer Institute*: "Befriending the Religious Other"

Inviting representatives from all faith traditions and communities to attend and interact.

For registration information see: http://www.sambodh.com/Peace07_Registration.pdf

Questions: Contact, Ruth Harring (269) 327-3774 or (269) 492-0544