

Our UUA Peacemaking Congregational Study/Action Issue: How to Involve Your Congregation in 2007-2008

A number of congregations have been active in creating programs to explore the Peacemaking Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI) adopted at the 2006 General Assembly (and eligible for adoption as a Statement of Conscience at the 2009 GA). The Peacemaking CSAI Core Team, a group of volunteers helping to facilitate the CSAI process, has drawn on congregations' experiences to invite all congregations to undertake the following activities for the coming year. We hope your congregation will become involved!

1) Peacemakers Book Discussion Program – Borrowing from the experience of First UU San Diego, all UUs are invited to join in reading one peacemaking-related book each month and participating in discussion groups within congregations. The Church of the Larger Fellowship may also participate with some national discussion groups through their website, <http://clf.uua.org>. Following are the books for the fall; the full list is forthcoming:

October – *Gandhi: The Man*, by Eknath Easwaren

November – *Speak Peace in a World of Conflict: What You Say Next Will Change Your World*, by Marshall B. Rosenberg

December – *Peace is Every Step*, by Thich Nhat Hanh

If participants would like a more leisurely pace, congregations may choose to select one or more books to focus on over several months.

2) Peacemaking Education – A guide entitled *Peacemaking in Congregations: Guide to Learning Opportunities for All Ages* has been developed to provide religious education leaders a list of peacemaking curricula and other resources that are available from a variety of organizations. We are requesting that congregations use one or more of these and provide assessments of the particular resources, so that the best resources can be identified and recommended for use in 2008-09. **The Guide will continue to evolve as we receive input.** *Peacemaking in Congregations* is available now at www.uure.org and soon to be available at the Commission on Social Witness website accessible by going to <http://www.uua.org/socialjustice> and checking in the **What's New** box.

3) PEACE Teams - Congregations are encouraged to create a “Peacemaking Education and Action through Collaborative Efforts” (PEACE) Team, to organize programs. Ideally, these teams would include representatives from Social Action, Denominational Affairs, Religious Education, UUSC, and UU-UNO Committees, as well as others interested. Teams would:

◆ Organize peacemaking study and action programs during the next two years of the Peacemaking CSAI process (and beyond), developing your own programs or using resources recommended by the Core Team.

◆ Designate one or two contact persons to be liaisons with the national Peacemaking Network and report on the effectiveness of peacemaking programs used.

4) **Help Shape the ongoing CSAI process** – You can provide input in shaping the CSAI and the draft Statement of Conscience on Peacemaking in several ways.

- ◆ Join one of two listservs which are available through www.uua.org/lists:
Peacemaking-Network – Provides an opportunity to network with others on Peacemaking issues
UU-SpeakingPeace – Networking for individuals interested in Marshall Rosenberg's Nonviolent Communications and other current interpersonal peacemaking approaches.
- ◆ Join one of the national Working Groups – to find out more, visit the Commission on Social Witness online at www.uua.org/socialjustice – *What's New*.
- ◆ Organize your congregation to provide input on the Peacemaking CSAI by submitting the CSAI Comment Form, available at the Commission on Social Witness website, by March 1, 2008 and by having your delegates provide input at General Assembly 2008.

For updates on the CSAI process, please visit the Commission on Social Witness online at www.uua.org/socialjustice – just check the *What's New* box!

Thank you for whatever you contribute to your congregation's involvement in the Peacemaking CSAI!

The Peacemaking CSAI Core Team:

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