



An Interfaith Approach to Building Community and Peace

[Note: The following is a summary version of this document.]

Recitals

1. Every government and every society is organized around some set of principles.
2. The same is true regarding establishment of a culture of peace. Foundational principles are vital.
3. To be effective, such principles must effectively address the root causes of violence and be widely accepted and willingly followed. In short, they must be full of goodness and ring true.
4. The easiest and most powerful place to start in defining foundational principles for a global culture of peace is the moral/ethical teachings addressing root causes of violence that are already shared in common by the world's great religions and by many good people that do not follow any particular faith or any faith at all - but are not widely understood to be shared in common.
5. In our troubled world, those shared truths can be:
 - A reality check for each of us in our quest for inner peace and in fulfilling our responsibility for our piece of world peace,
 - An anchor to the soul, (if there is truth anywhere, and we believe there is, it is most certainly in the areas of broad agreement.)
 - The social glue that binds us together,
 - Foundational principles for a global morality and culture of peace, and
 - A unifying standard we can rally around to build the world we seek.

Foundational Principles

We suggest ten shared truths that are particularly powerful in directly countering the root causes of discord and violence and building inner and global peace. All are interrelated. See which ring true to you.

Article 1 Harmony Within

*“Never let it be forgotten that ultimately peace lies not in the hands of governments
but in the hands of the people.”*

King Hussein of Jordan

Shared Truth 1. You are responsible/accountable for how you live your life. Take responsibility now.

Shared Truth 2. Grow and become the best version of yourself.

Shared Truth 3. To find more meaning and purpose in your life, overcome selfishness and greed and live for something higher than self.

Article 2 Harmony with Others

“There is an invisible bond of humanity that makes us all one.”

Thomas Carlyle

Shared Truth 4. All of humanity are interconnected as siblings in the same human family, as all having divinity within, and/or as children of God - and should be regarded as such.

Shared Truth 5. Treat people as you would like to be treated – even with kindness and love - and not as you would not like to be treated. (The “Golden Rule”.)

Shared Truth 6. Parents have the responsibility to love, nurture, protect, and teach their children.

Article 3 Harmony with the Source of Light/Enlightenment

*“Somehow the world is hungry for goodness and recognizes it when it sees it.
There’s something in all of us that hungers after the good and the true.”*

Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Shared Truth 7. There is nothing more important in life and nothing more fulfilling than living in harmony with the source of wisdom, love and light/enlightenment.

Shared Truth 8. Your thoughts, words, and actions move you either closer to harmony with the source of wisdom, love, and light or further away. Love moves you closer. Hate moves you away. Focus on moving closer.

Shared Truth 9. Respect for freedom of belief is essential.

Article 4 Harmony with Nature

The earth is the Lord’s, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

Psalms 24:1 KJV

Shared Truth 10. The Earth is sacred and should be treated as such: Every person has a stewardship responsibility.

Endorsed and submitted respectfully and with prayers for blessings, love, and peace for all of humanity,

Board of Directors, Salt Lake Interfaith Roundtable
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Note of Clarification: While this Initiative focuses on good that is shared in common, it is not an attempt to make all religions one. Nor is it an attempt to suggest that “all roads lead to the Divine.” It recognizes and respects differences and the fact that many of those differences are important to those who follow the various faith traditions and may hold the keys to complete harmony with the source of wisdom, love, and light. However, living the Shared Truths will bring people more in harmony with each other and closer to harmony with that source no matter what religion they may or may not align with. Moreover, living the Shared Truths is likely the best path to sustainable peace.