



## INSTITUTE FOR INTERFAITH RELATIONSHIPS

### Mission Statement

The Institute for Interfaith Relationships (IIR) is an expression of the Peacebuilding Institute, ([www.peacebuildinginstitute.org](http://www.peacebuildinginstitute.org)).

**The mission of the Institute for Interfaith Relationships is building mutual respect, appreciation, and celebration among diverse religious, ethical, cultural communities and civic organizations.**

Why this mission now: There is lack of understanding and respect for our diversities that has often resulted in fear, distrust and the dehumanization of people of different religious, ethical and cultural traditions.

The IIR works for a positive appreciation of diversity, espousing compassion as the central asset of religious, ethical, and cultural life, and that any interpretation of sacred writings that fosters violence, hatred, or disdain is illegitimate.

Learning practical ways to encounter people of diverse religions, ethics, and cultures, we discover opportunities to learn from each other, living in community together, developing/increasing mutual respect and discovering areas of commonality.

**Institute for Interfaith Relationships (IIR)**

An Expression of the Peacebuilding Institute

Rev. Marcia C. Free, M.Div., Director

### Vision Statement

**The Vision of the Institute for Interfaith Relationships is accomplishing our mission through working with diverse, religious, ethical, and cultural communities and civic organizations on commonly identified community concerns, celebrating shared spiritual experiences, arts, educational, and peace building activities.**

How this is and will be accomplished is through:

- ❖ Interfaith dialogue training such as the National Council of Churches USA offering of a six session experiential learning and coaching for interfaith dialogue, contact Rev. Dr. Shanta Premawardhana, [shanta@nccusa.org](mailto:shanta@nccusa.org)
- ❖ World religion classes, such as the six-week course on Islam taught at Church of the Savior, United Church of Christ, by IIR's Director, Marcia Free. ([marciafree@comcast.net](mailto:marciafree@comcast.net))
- ❖ Participating in the Interfaith Alliance. An alliance across the country of 75 faith traditions and no faith traditions celebrating religious freedom and challenging the bigotry and hatred arising from religious and political extremism infiltrating American politics. ([www.interfaithalliance.org](http://www.interfaithalliance.org))
- ❖ Identifying common community concerns, utilizing a community action model such as Direct Action, research and Training (D.A.R.T) a congregation-based community organizing model of bringing religious congregations together around shared values and concerns to challenge the economic, political and social systems to act justly. ([www.thedartcenter.org](http://www.thedartcenter.org))

- ❖ Sharing spiritual experiences and dialogue through monthly gatherings, each led by a different faith.
- ❖ Sharing artistic events such as the Dances of International Peace. ([www.dancesofuniversalpeace.org](http://www.dancesofuniversalpeace.org))
- ❖ Seeking religious, ethical, cultural, civic and business organization membership for investing in the community through support of community action training.
- ❖ Developing a website through the Institutes of Christian Spirituality, part of the Peacebuilding Institute. ([www.christianspirituality.org/interfaith\\_relationships](http://www.christianspirituality.org/interfaith_relationships))

**Opportunities to participate and/or support IIR**

I would like to (check all that apply):

- Become an individual donating member at the **suggested donation of \$25.00/year**. (Make check payable to Peacebuilding Institute/IIR, for tax deduction) (All monies go for programming and supporting communication.)
- Become an individual participating member **committing to a quarterly meeting**.
- Provide the monetary resources to **send a representative** from different faith communities **to interfaith dialogue training**. ○ Please contact me for further information.
- Provide the monetary resources to **send representatives** from different faith communities **to Direct Action, Research, and Training**. (D.A.R.T. Training) ○ Please contact me for further information.
- Be a **representative for your community** of faith **to IIR**.
- Act as a liaison with your community of faith or civic organization for **setting up a time for a presentation by our IIR Director**.
- **Be supported by IIR in a cross-cultural arts program** in which I am participating.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

IIR's contact information:

865 705-3129

[marciafree@comcast.net](mailto:marciafree@comcast.net)

[www.christianspirituality.org/interfaith\\_relationships](http://www.christianspirituality.org/interfaith_relationships)