

Zones of Peace

Helpful Hints to Make the Most of Your Experience



As we welcome new partners in the 'Zones of Peace' initiative, we encourage reflection on the insights gained during the pilot program:

1. Embrace the powerful message of 'A Call from People of Faith to Stop Violence,' adopted by the Religious Leaders Council in October 2007, by creatively adapting it for your community. For example, an 8th grade student from St. Francis De Sales School transformed the pledge into a song that has been recorded by her classmates.
2. Become inspired to do something you have not done before. For example, St. John's Lutheran Church engaged Lutheran advocacy in Pennsylvania to do a series of workshops, help the congregation to identify an issue of community concern, and advocate for change. Now is the time!
3. Celebrate previous successes and take the next step with a program/partnership you are already committed to. For instance, Mount Pisgah AME Church hosted a symposium with 'Mothers in Charge' to talk about root causes of violence, share resources, and pray for those who have been impacted by violence directly.
4. Branch Out! If you are having trouble brainstorming a project in your own community, be aware of other peace efforts in our city and consider how your unique resources and talents could enhance their current endeavors. For instance, Mishkan Shalom encouraged community members to participate in gun violence prevention advocacy in partnership with 'Heeding God's Call.'
5. The action piece of this initiative is the most important, yet is also the most adaptable in truly making the project your own. As a 'Zone of Peace' you can commit to assessing your community's unique needs and resources. For example, the Church of Jesus



Christ of Latter Day Saints developed a family home evening lesson plan on finding peace through forgiveness. This lesson plan was disseminated to local congregations throughout the region and celebrated by national staff.



6. Get involved and share your story! Take advantage of all that has been innovated in this pilot year, and share your thoughts on how to make 'Zones of Peace' bigger and better.

Pilot Sites

2009-2010:

- Al Aqsa Islamic Society, South Kensington
- Arch Street United Methodist Church, Center City
- The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints
- The First Presbyterian Church, Germantown
- Mishkan Shalom, Manayunk
- Mount Pisgah AME Church, West Philadelphia
- St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic School, Northeast Philadelphia
- St. Francis De Sales Catholic Church / School, West Philadelphia
- St. John's Lutheran Church, Cheltenham
- St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Frankford



The *Religious Leaders Council* is coordinated by the Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia
Contact: Reverend Nicole Diroff, ndd@interfaithcenterpa.org, 215-222-1012
3723 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia PA 19104, www.interfaithcenterpa.org