

## ABRAHAMIC FAITHS DIALOGUE INITIATIVE

### **ACTION TO BE VOTED ON:**

The Board of Stewards of the Rocky Mountain Annual Conference is requested to create an Abrahamian Faith Dialogue Initiative to foster greater peace and understanding among the Christian, Jewish and Muslim communities of the Rocky Mountain region.

The Initiative would consist of two committees appointed by the Board of Stewards, each committee including no more than ten members, to be in existence for one year.

- The Planning Committee will define goals, identify existing resources, determine what additional resources are needed, and develop an implementation plan. This Committee will identify possible dialogue partners, both local and international.
- The Implementation Committee will promote the Abrahamian Faiths Dialogue Initiative and offer orientations, training, and resource material to interested congregations within the Rocky Mountain Conference.
- The Board of Stewards and the Rocky Mountain Annual Conference are urged to encourage local congregations and campus ministries to use the materials developed by these Committees to engage in dialogue and mutual education about Abrahamian traditions shared by Christians, Jews, and Muslims.
- After one year, both Committees will be disbanded.

### **RATIONALE:**

#### **Purpose:**

To improve mutual knowledge, trust, peace, love, understanding, and relationships among “People of The Book” through exchange and clarification of information and the sharing of people’s stories and experiences.

#### **Concept:**

The Rocky Mountain Conference of The United Methodist Church wishes to have members of the Abrahamian faith – Christians, Jews, and Muslims – engage in a process of mutual learning and understanding. Gaining a deeper understanding of each other will facilitate our ability to live together in our local communities and in the world.

This endeavor is to acquire understanding and cooperation. We seek understanding, not conversion; we seek to cooperate in learning, not to justify; we seek to find areas of our United Methodist Church faith that can be accepted by our Abrahamian brothers and sisters.

41 In brief, we reach out our hands and our hearts with our United Methodist social creed: “We  
42 dedicate ourselves to peace throughout the world, to the rule of justice and law among nations,  
43 and to individual freedom for all people of the world.”<sup>1</sup> Our belief is entrenched in the beatitude,  
44 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”<sup>2</sup>

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**Salaam, Peace, Shalom**

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48 Notes:

49 1 Produced by the General Board of Church and Society, Social Principles of the United  
50 Methodist Church, 2005-2008, p.37.

51 2 Life Application Bible: New International Version, Mathew Chap. 5, Verse 9.

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54 **PETITION INFORMATION:**

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56 **EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 1, 2008

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58 **TERMINATION DATE:** July 1, 2009

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60 **ORIGINATOR OF THE PETITION:** Administrative Council, First United Methodist Church,  
61 Fort Collins, Colorado and co-sponsored by the Church and Society Network of the Rocky  
62 Mountain Conference

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64 Coordinated by Warren Mauk and Forrest Walters, First United Methodist Church members,  
65 Endorsed by Dr. Maurice Albertson, a founder of the Peace Corps concept; Andy Mair, former  
66 United States Diplomat with experience in Afghanistan and Turkey; Dr. William Griswold,  
67 Professor of Islamic Studies; David Reid, Editor and Publisher of “Vital Theology” and Jean and  
68 Tom Sutherland, former hostage in Lebanon and Agriculturist.

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70 **PERSON TO PRESENT PETITION TO CONFERENCE:**

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Martha Conant  
508Canadian Parkway, Fort Collins, CO 80524  
970-482-6997

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Martha@lifewisecoach.com

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With  
Warren Mauk and/or Forrest Walters

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2346 Franklin Rd., Fort Collins, CO 80524  
970-482-3012

79 WTMauk@worldnet.att.net

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81 **FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

82 Will there be any financial impact to the Conference?

83 If YES , fill in appropriate information below.

84 (To be completed by Originator of Petition)

85 Cost \$1200 Period July1, 2008-July1, 2009 (Not to exceed one year.)

86 Funds provided by Annual Conference/Agency \$1200

87 (To be completed by Conference Council on Finance and Administration)

88 Reviewed by Council on Finance and Administration, March 18, 2008

89 Included in the Proposed 2009 Budget: No. In the amount of \$ 0

90 Recommendation by Council of Finance and Administration:

91 The Council supports the intent of this proposal. However, the requested period of

92 funding is in the 2008 current year budget. In addition, a petition of this nature should be

93 submitted to Conference Board of Stewards rather than directly to CF&A.

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