

## **Interfaith Fellowship: Seeking Reconciliation through a Common Word of Faith**

### **Purpose:**

We come together as people of different faiths, not to promote our own faith but to engage in dialogue to better understand the differences in our faiths and to find the common ground that enables us to recognize and respect each other as people of God.

We believe that all people are created by God and equal in His sight, and that God's will is ever directed to the good of all people, not just a chosen few. We are faithful to our own religion, but do not assert its primacy over others, believing that God seeks the reconciliation of people of all faiths as spiritual brothers and sisters.

We believe that all faith traditions provide a way to experience the transforming power of God, and that any faith that claims to be the only way to salvation denies the universal nature of God and fosters suspicion and fear that polarizes us along religious lines, and that this leads to hatred and violence that endangers all of God's creation.

We commit ourselves to struggle against those dark forces within competing religions that masquerade as God and separate us; and while we seek to reconcile with those of different faiths through a common word of God, we respect our many differences and affirm the right of all people to practice the religion of their choice.

To this end we commit ourselves to participate in interfaith fellowship that seeks peace and reconciliation through dialogue and sharing *a common word* of faith.

### **Process:**

We acknowledge the greatest commandment to love God and our neighbors as ourselves—even our *unbelieving* neighbors—as *a common word* of our faith traditions, and we commit ourselves to seek peace and reconciliation with those of other faiths by:

1. Sharing our commitment to dialogue: We recognize that genuine interfaith dialogue requires respect for that which is good and holy in all religions and a willingness to learn from religions other than our own, even as we acknowledge our many differences.
2. Sharing our commitment to justice based on human rights and secular law: We recognize and affirm that people of all faiths are responsible for maintaining the good order of society through democratic government and a secular rule of law that protects fundamental human rights (including the freedoms of religion and expression), deters violence and promotes peace and equal justice under law.
3. Sharing our moral common ground: We affirm the primacy of God's love over law as expressed in *a common word* of faith to love God and our neighbors as ourselves, to include our *unbelieving* neighbors as well as all those in need, and even our adversaries.
4. Sharing our spiritual common ground: We recognize that we are spiritual brothers and sisters living in God's creation, and that we cannot promote lasting peace and justice in a troubled world until we have the spiritual power of God's love, mercy, compassion and peace in our hearts.