

SHOULDER TO SHOULDER IN INTERFAITH WITNESS

Litany

Group #1: We stand shoulder to shoulder with persons of different faiths.

Group#2: We choose to witness to a better future for the world, a future where people of different faiths will encourage rather than fear one another.

Group #1: In a world of religious violence, where religions are building walls to separate themselves from one another,

Group#2: We choose to build bridges of understanding and support.

Group #1: In a world that has mastered the art of war and destruction,

Group#2: We choose to witness to the power of forgiveness.

All: What is forgiveness? Forgiveness is a uniquely human act that is both powerful and positive.

Group #1: To forgive our adversaries is to realize that they need our help in recovering their humanity,

Group#2: Even as we need the help of others to recover our humanity.

Group #1: We further believe that forgiveness is not an ending, but a beginning.

Group#2: To forgive is to establish a new and binding covenant with those from whom we have been cut off by hatred and hostility.

All: Violence cannot cure violence. Hatred cannot end hatred. The only antidote to hatred and violence is forgiveness and reconciliation.

Group #1: May this be a day when a change of heart occurred in this city, in this state, in this country, in this world.

Group#2: May this be a day when we are empowered to pursue justice and mercy for the oppressed.

Group #1: Not only in Indianapolis, but in Chulaimbo, and in cities around the world.

Group#2: Not only in Indiana, but in Nyanza, and in states around the world.

Group #1: Not only in the United States, but in Kenya, and in countries around the world.

All: Today may we plant seeds of peace and understanding. Today may we transform the sword into a plow. Peace be with all with whom I stand. Peace be with you on my left; peace be with you on my right; peace to us all and to the world.