

UNIVERSAL PEACE FEDERATION



Interfaith Peacebuilding

- Peace
- Principles
- Spirituality
- Service
- Dialogue
- Interfaith
- Family
- Cooperation
- Reconciliation
- Partnership



Universal Peace Federation

Interfaith Peacebuilding Initiatives



Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon
UPF Founders

Core Values

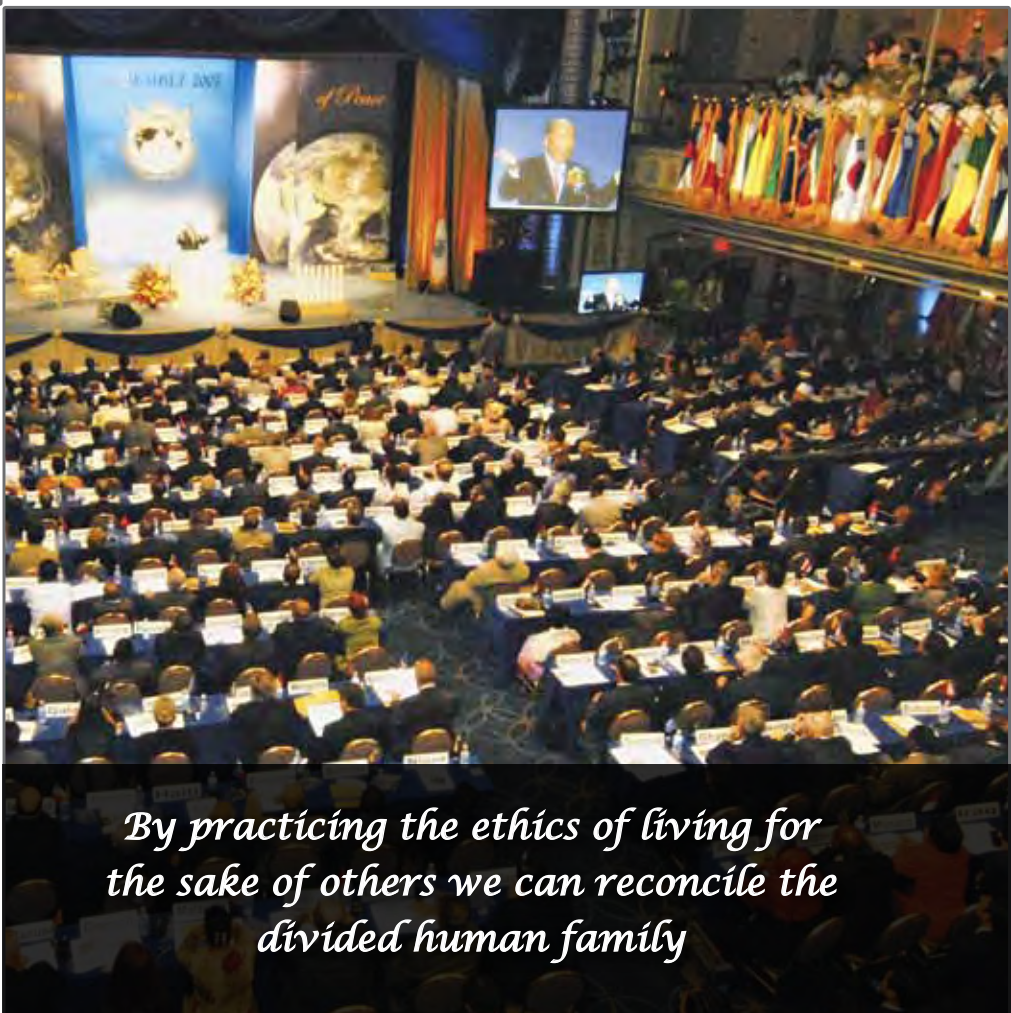
- We are one human family created by God.
- The highest achievements of men and women are rooted in spiritual and moral development.
- The family is the “school of love and peace.”
- Peace comes through dialogue and cooperation.
- Service is the foundation of reconciliation.

Areas of Focus

- Interfaith Peacebuilding
- Peace and security
- Marriage and family
- Culture of peace
- UN relations

THE Universal Peace Federation (UPF) and its global network of Ambassadors for Peace bring universal, spiritual principles to the task of resolving conflict and reconciling the divided human family. International Leadership Conferences, symposia, and peace councils offer opportunities for high-level consultations. These are complemented by “track two” diplomacy and grass-roots programs that build support for a culture of peace.

UPF is an NGO in special consultative status with ECOSOC, the Economic and Social Council at the United Nations. The Secretariat is based in New York, and there are 12 regional offices and more than 150 chapters worldwide. Each chapter is entitled to nominate a representative to the UPF Global Peace Council. Individual members of UPF are called to be Ambassadors for Peace.



By practicing the ethics of living for the sake of others we can reconcile the divided human family

UPF World Assembly in New York City.





Interfaith Assembly

UPF has hosted Interfaith summits at times of tension, including one of the first interfaith response to the 9/11/2001 attacks on the United States, followed by a conference for Muslims in Jakarta; and more recently the “Divine Winds of Change” seminar in Istanbul.



Consultations

In many parts of the world addressing security issues is a necessary step toward peace. UPF’s Office of Peace and Security brings decades of experience and expertise to peace initiatives in the Middle East, East Asia, South Asia, Africa, and the South Caucasus.



Religious Youth Service

RYS provides an environment wherein youth can rise above doctrinal differences, unite in activities of service and learning that benefit communities around the world, and develop leadership abilities that enable all participants to help create a culture of peace.



World Interfaith Harmony Week

In support of the first World Interfaith Harmony Week in 2011, UPF worked with religious groups to hold celebrations in 22 nations. In 2012 UPF and religious NGOs helped plan an interfaith program at the UN General Assembly.



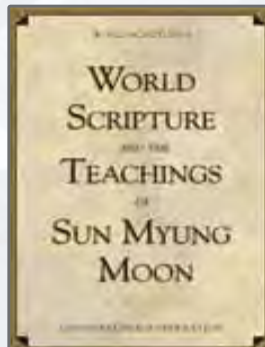
Interreligious Sports Programs

Young athletes from different religions and nationalities converge in the spirit of sportsmanship. *Play Soccer Make Peace* sponsors matches between youth from communities that have suffered tension and division.



Publications

UPF encourages debate and discussion among the world’s faiths, and promoting understanding of the common ground in teachings, ethics and practice. Among our interfaith publications are the *Dialogue & Alliance* and the two-volume *World Scripture*.



Putting Faith into Action

Middle East Peace Initiative



ON the foundation of decades of interfaith efforts, UPF's Middle East Peace Initiative began in 2003, in the heat of violence of the second Intifada. It offers interfaith pilgrimages, fact-finding tours, leadership consultations, and grass-roots encounters.

Visiting the historic and holy sites of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, participants gain a first-hand understanding of the history and spirituality of the Abrahamic faiths.

Briefings, dialogues, and opportunities to interact with the variety of people in the region give unique insights into current events as well as opportunities to serve as ambassadors of goodwill who build lasting relationships with people of diverse cultures.



Strategies for Reducing Interreligious Conflict:

- **Establish an interreligious council among respected spiritual leaders representing all the traditions in the region.**
- **Convene the interreligious council during peace talks.**
- **Convene special council sessions with heads of religious bodies outside the region.**
- **Bring together young people from the region's faith traditions to build bonds of trust and cooperation.**
- **Develop a curriculum that respectfully teaches the core values of the region's diverse faith traditions.**
- **Encourage interfaith prayer and cooperation.**



Interfaith Volunteerism

Responses to Terrorism

After attacks in **Norway** killed 77 people in July 2011, UPF-Norway organized a forum in partnership with the Central Mosque in Oslo that included political leaders and a youth panel.



Reconciliation after Civil War

The disputed presidential elections of 2010 in **Cote d'Ivoire** sparked a civil war. Religious leaders and Ambassadors for Peace met with the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission to plan a grassroots campaign to teach peace principles.



Flood Relief

Buddhist, Christian, and Muslim students cleaned a Muslim school in Bangkok damaged by flood waters. This collaboration was facilitated by the **Thailand** National Interreligious Peace Council.



Community Cohesion

During forums on reconciliation and forgiveness in the **UK**, speakers talked about their experiences with people of other religions, the challenges they have faced in life, and how they drew upon the resources of their faith.



Rural Development

Young people of different faiths built a classroom and toilet facilities for students in an impoverished community near Lumbini, **Nepal** the birthplace of Buddha.



Post-tsunami Cleanup

After the 2011 earthquake and tsunami in **Japan**, UPF partnered with Christian Disaster Response to train volunteers doing clean up. This sparked a collaboration of NGOs and government offices involved in disaster relief.



World Interfaith Harmony Week

First week of February each year

- H.M. King Abdullah II of Jordan advocated for this annual celebration during the first week of February “based on love of God and love of one’s neighbor, or on love of the good and love of one’s neighbor, each according to their own religious traditions or convictions.”
- “Spread the message of interfaith harmony and goodwill,” urged UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, “in the world’s churches, mosques, synagogues, temples and other places of worship.” This was his call to people of faith on the first World Interfaith Harmony Week, established by a UN General Assembly Resolution in October 2010.



A warm welcome for people of all faiths in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



Prayers from several faith traditions in Tokyo, Japan

List of Nations Observing Harmony Week in 2011

Azerbaijan	Korea
Barbados	Malaysia
Canada	Moldova
Côte d’Ivoire	Russia
Germany	Slovakia
Indonesia	Solomon Islands
Israel	St. Lucia
Italy	Switzerland
Japan	Taiwan
Kazakhstan	Thailand
Kenya	United States

THE Universal Peace Federation organized observances in 22 nations in 2011, notably in an International Leadership Conference in Seoul, Korea. The opening plenary on February 7 began with interfaith prayers from the Muslim, Christian, Jewish, Confucian, Shinto, Buddhist, and Sikh traditions. Each of the religious representatives shared a reading from their scripture, lit a candle, and offered a prayer for peace, while colorful banners and decorations proclaimed the vision of the week of interfaith harmony.





Humanity everywhere is bound together not only by mutual interests but also by shared commandments, to love God and neighbor, to love the good.



Exploring Common Ground

In **Indonesia**, a Muslim emphasized harmonizing words and deeds, a Buddhist spoke about the importance of listening, and a Hindu advocated “heart, humility, humanity, and harmony.” A conference in **Switzerland** was conducted in both French and German by pairs of lecturers from the different regions of the nation. Forums in Munich and Stuttgart, **Germany** included speeches, readings, and prayers.

Addressing National Concerns

Some meetings were part of ongoing work for reconciliation. Muslim and Christian leaders in **Cote d’Ivoire** made plans to work together for reconciliation. Referring to the bitter post-election violence of two years earlier, a Buddhist leader in **Kenya** called for people to reach out to each other in forgiveness. In Bangkok, the World Interfaith Harmony Week event built momentum toward the inauguration of the **Thailand** Interfaith Peace Council in September.

Engaging in Joint Action

After lighting a “lamp of peace” and reading from various scriptures, students in **India** cleaned a park. In Moscow, **Russia**, youth made plans for further dialogue. Youth from four religious groups planned the observance in **St. Lucia**. Working together to end world hunger was the theme in **Italy**. A gathering in Israel honored government workers who promote interfaith activity. People in **Moldova** planned ways to cooperate in public projects.

Speaking, Listening, Praying

Speakers from various religions took part in forums in **Barbados; Canada; Kazakhstan; and Solomon Islands**. Prayers and readings by representatives of different faiths were the highlights of gatherings in **Japan; Malaysia; Russia; Slovakia; and the US**.

Photos above, left to right: Stuttgart, Germany; Washington, DC, USA; and Nitra, Slovakia

Faith leaders at an interfaith assembly in Seoul, Korea





Interreligious Councils



Spiritual Insight

RELIGION and spirituality impact the worldviews, values, and practices of humanity worldwide. Human beings are not only political, economic, and social but also spiritual beings with spiritual needs and a capacity for spiritual wisdom and insight.

UPF Founder Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon advocates that the United Nations, for its own survival and effectiveness, build an interreligious council or similar structure within its system, because the current structure, dominated by political self-interest, represents an incomplete expression of humanity's potential.

Those who represent the highest expressions of humanity's vision of peace can help ground peacemaking in moral and spiritual principles based on the wisdom of Jesus, Mohammed, Moses, Buddha, Confucius, and other sages.

Some people say that advances in science have proven that many religious beliefs are mere superstition and irrelevant to the modern world. But the role of religion will always be relevant as long as the spiritual aspect of human beings remains a reality and a world of peace has not been established.

The struggles of modern ideologies, cultures, and races can be overcome through interreligious understanding and spiritual harmony.

Religious scholars should go beyond complex theories and promoting the superiority of their own religions and give people the wisdom to love humanity and build a world of peace. Religions must pool their wisdom and combine their energies and work diligently to build the ideal world.

- Rev. Sun Myung Moon

Top: Rev. Sun Myung Moon speaking at the UN in 2000; **Middle:** interreligious peace councils in Thailand (L.) and Ethiopia (R.); **Bottom:** informal discussions at UPF conferences in Korea and New York





“We need a United Nations that can effectively direct the abundant financial, academic, spiritual, and technical resources. This task is not the work of one single religion but the combined work of all religions.”

– Kenneth D. Kaunda, President of Zambia (1964-91)



How Councils Can Help

In addition to military, economic, and ecological factors, human wellbeing and security involves people’s ways of thinking, which are deeply affected by religion. Interreligious councils have the potential to

- Provide fresh and unique perspectives on problems and potential solutions
- Prevent religious differences from being exploited to stir up conflict
- Promote intercultural dialogue, understanding, and cooperation
- Model the capacity to rise above differences and work together for the common good

Top photo: A Model UN Interreligious Council session in Geneva, Switzerland; below, left to right: the Azerbaijan National Peace Council, interreligious forum in Uruguay, Week of Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns program at the UN headquarters in New York



A Decade of Progress

- 2000** Vision for an interfaith council outlined in an address by Dr. Sun Myung Moon at the UN
- 2004** Promotion of Interreligious Dialogue: GA Resolution 59/23 (sponsored by the Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the UN)
- 2005** Inauguration of the Universal Peace Federation modeling the activities of a proposed council
- 2006** Tripartite Forum on Interfaith Cooperation for Peace (partnership among Member States, UN bodies, and NGOs)
- 2007** Establishment of a Focal Unit in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at the United Nations (GA Resolution 61/221)
- 2010** Proposal for a UN Decade of Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue, Understanding and Cooperation for Peace (resolution not yet approved)
- 2011** World Interfaith Harmony Week established (the first week of February)

Interfaith Harmony Readings

BAHA'Í:

Be a lamp unto those who walk in darkness, and a home to the stranger. Be eyes to the blind, and a guiding light unto the feet of the erring. Be a breath of life to the body of humankind, a dew upon the soil of the human heart, and a fruit upon the tree of humility.

BUDDHISM:

May those frightened cease to be afraid, and may those bound be free. May the powerless find power, and may people think of befriending one another.

CHRISTIANITY:

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be known as the Children of God. Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.



CONFUCIANISM:

When the heart is set right, then the personal life is cultivated. When the personal life is cultivated, then the family life is regulated. When the family life is regulated, then the national life is orderly. And when the national life is orderly, then there is peace in the world.

HINDUISM:

May there be peace on earth. May thy Vedic Law propagate peace all through the world. May all things be a source of peace to us. And may thy peace itself, bestow peace on all, and may that peace come to me also.

ISLAM:

If the enemy incline towards peace, do thou also incline towards peace, and trust God, for the Lord is the one that heareth and knoweth all things. And the servants of God, Most Gracious are those who walk on the Earth in humility, and when we address them, we say "PEACE."

JUDAISM:

Come let us go up the mountain of the Lord, that we may walk the paths of the Most High. And we shall beat our swords into ploughshares,

and our spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not lift up sword against nation—neither shall they learn war any more.

SIKHISM:

God adjudges us according to our deeds, not the coat that we wear: that truth is above everything, but higher still is truthful living. Know that we attaineth God when we loveth, and only that victory endures in consequences of which no one is defeated.

SHINTOISM:

Although the people living across the ocean surrounding us are all our brothers and sisters, why are there constant troubles in this world? Why do winds and waves rise in the ocean surrounding us? I only earnestly wish that the wind will soon puff away all the clouds which are hanging over the tops of the mountains.

UNIFICATIONISM:

A life of vertical "noon-time" alignment casts no shadow. I pray that we can wipe away the tears of people in misery and poverty, and lead an illuminated life of eternal true love that dissipates all darkness.

Prayers or selections from sacred scriptures are read by representatives of different faiths and traditions, and each pours water from a container into a common bowl or lights a candle for peace.
(L.) Ceremonies in Italy and the Marshall Islands.





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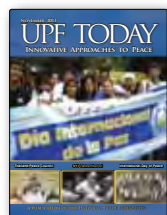
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Dr. Chang Shik Yang, Regional Chair

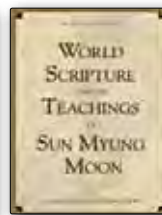
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UPF Publications

**UPF TODAY**

Did you know that UPF TODAY is now available in French, Arabic, Spanish, Russian, Chinese, Japanese, and Korean as well as English?

**WORLD SCRIPTURE**

This two-volume comparative anthology of sacred texts highlights the many common teachings of the world's great faiths.

**VISIONS OF PEACE FOR AFRICA**

African Heads of State reflect on the challenges facing the continent and the task of forging peace in this collection of UPF conference presentations.

**DIALOGUE & ALLIANCE**

A journal of the Universal Peace Federation promoting dialogue and alliance among people of faith for the cause of peace and development.

**AS A PEACE-LOVING GLOBAL CITIZEN**

UPF Founder Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon shares about his private and public life and work in this newly published autobiography.

“Spread the message of interfaith harmony and goodwill, in the world’s churches, mosques, synagogues, temples, and other places of worship.”

— Ban Ki-moon
UN Secretary-General

“Use every opportunity to transform our world into a world that is more just for the vast majority of citizens, a world where it will be easier and more efficient to work together.”

— Hon. Evgeny Nikulishchev
First Deputy Chairman Councillor, Parliament of Russia

“You are making a difference by standing up for the ideal of peace that transcends race and religion.”

— Hon. Kenneth Marende
Speaker of the Kenya National Assembly

“Relationships with people of diverse faith backgrounds have enriched my life.”

— H.E. Dr. Hussein Hassouna
Ambassador, League of Arab States to the US



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天宙平和聯合會 海外弘理會 理想

True Love is the Ideal and the Guiding Principle of the Universal Peace Federation