



Creative Peacemaking

Episcopal Peace Fellowship (USA)

Extract from the Anglican Peace and Justice Network report 'Community Transformation: Violence and the Church's Response', September/October 2007

The Episcopal Peace Fellowship mission is to: ***Do Justice, Dismantle Violence, Strive to be Peace Makers***, in our parishes, our dioceses, our communities, our nation and our world. EPF has been working on these issues for 69 years. Our members make a commitment to **pray, connect, and act for peace**, and to renounce, as far as possible, participation in war, militarism, and all other forms of violence.

All of our work falls under an umbrella called **Creative Peacemaking**. We implement our commitment by living out our baptismal covenant to strive for peace and justice, respecting the dignity of everyone (*Book of Common Prayer*). We do this by forming **local chapters** in parishes and dioceses, by creating issue-focused **action groups**, by providing **nonviolence tools and training**, by providing **liturgical resources** and by **publicly witnessing** to Jesus' gospel of peace and justice.

EPF Chapters (70+) bring together church members to discuss the issues about which they are the most passionate, how they might respond and what tools they need. Chapters present peace and justice resources to their parishes, write resolutions for their diocesan conventions, and organize ways that members can witness publicly.

EPF Action Groups organize and provide public witness to **end war and bring peace** (currently, we are especially concerned about the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan); to bring justice to the Palestinians, and safety to Israel and Palestine; and to prevent a war in Iran. We also organize to end the death penalty in the U.S. and to end the nuclear proliferation. Our action groups provide information and ways to witness publicly to our members and the Church at large.

EPF Nonviolence Tools & Training. EPF is in the process of developing a nonviolent tool kit that is self-instructive and flexible, allowing for maximum interactive use. We also provide counsel and guidance to groups and individuals seeking to host nonviolence training, whether an introductory session, a day-long session or a three-day session. Our major nonviolence training is called ***Creating a Culture of Peace: Nonviolence Training for Personal and Social Change***. CCP is committed to the spirituality and practice of active nonviolence. It is intergenerational and community-based, with facilitators located across the U.S. and available to local groups. During the course of the three-day training, facilitators guide participants through an exploration of five themes: Violence, Active Nonviolence, Successful Nonviolent Social Movements, Community-Building, and Action-Planning. Every group plans nonviolent projects. The optimum training, a retreat with

spiritual dimensions, allows for 20 contact hours, usually over a three-day weekend. Contact Janet Chisholm: www.kirkridge.org.

EPF Liturgical Resources are woven into the very fabric of our life together as Episcopalians and Anglicans. EPF encourages our members to name, in the Prayers of the People, those oppressed by injustice and violence, to lift up in the liturgical context the themes of non-violence and forgiveness, and to organize vigils for both parishes and communities.

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