

Commitments from the Parliament of the People

This issue of Your Voice is dedicated to the commitments that were made at the final session of the Parliament of the People. Following the earlier sessions on Vision, Challenges and Proposals, participants were asked to express the personal commitments that each was making to keep the spirit of the Parliament of the World's Religions alive. In particular, participants were asked to focus on immediate, concrete steps rather than lofty goals, to help us be clear as to what we would each need to do so that the phrase "We came, we talked, we forgot" would not apply to this Parliament.

I commit to be involved in the first Interfaith Council for Chicago that was formed August 31, 1993 which includes visiting other places I worship and making more friends.

I will help to establish a local interfaith fellowship (open to all) in my home community.

I want to be continuously involved in discussion and investigation of two topics: the dominance versus the partnership model in society, and over population. I hope to learn and teach in these two areas, as they affect religion and are affected by it.
Marjorie Marquette Florsheim

Buy cassette tapes of some of the talks to give to friends. Sharing the wisdom of this Parliament.

Maintain links with the gifted people I've met and put them in touch with the gifted people I know.

Adopt a spiritual tradition.

Hook up the college to Together Net.

I am committing myself to continuing the process of inter-religious understanding and cooperation. I will write up what has happened this year, particularly at Kunya Kumin and Bangalore, India. I see it as a promotion of what can happen to change the world to become more

understanding and more cooperative. As part of this, I will promote the International Interfaith Center to be created at Oxford, UK. *David Storey*

I am committed to eliminating over-consumption in North America that is destroying our Earth. I am committed to putting the Earth first in my everyday actions, in the people I meet, in my work. I am committed to doing what I can to empower others in their lives. *Marilynn Bradley*

I'm a minister and want to expand our interfaith discussions to include more people (faiths) and events. [I will] write for the newspaper and my religious movement. [I will] teach courage in church and summer assemblies, especially for children. [I will do] sermons specifically on the Parliament and illustrate from world religions' scriptures.

I, *Brooke Anderson*, commit myself to be a founding member of the **Do Something Club** of California by teaching the best of the Parliament to business, spiritual and general communities.

I will represent the excitement, the adventure and the possibility of this parliament at my interfaith association back in Sudbury, MA. So - **Catch The Fire!** *The Rev. Eileen Epperson*

Write or contact 3 people or more per week. Contact my local newspapers. Contact my friends in local spiritual groups and churches to creating a Parliament of People [at the local level].

As a graduate student of Religious studies, I commit myself in being open to other people's sacredness, faith, struggles, hopes; but not as a passive person, but as an activist that finally understands that Religion without Love is nothing but good words, and love that can't transform human lives to living in peace and justice is not love nor religion.

I commit to be involved in the interfaith Council for Chicago that was formed August 31, 1993 which includes visiting other places of worship and making more friends.

Join TogetherNet. Write book on racism.

After returning from the Parliament, I shall think of how to evolve a new direction to give service to:

- * family
- * community
- * and the needy at large.

My personal commitment - To live more faithfully as a global, pluralistic person who expresses those loyalties sometimes through my Christian community, but also (and much more

than before) through multicultural/multifaith networks.

To return to my community acknowledging even more fully my spirituality and my "religion". To work to co-create a continuing interfaith dialogue in Boulder & Denver, CO. To see, in all transactions. To acknowledge the fundamental human values shared by all religions - our one God, our one Family, our one Home. To continue to seek co-creative partnerships to do the work of liberating & unifying all humans and honoring Mother Earth.

My Commitment:

- * To be more aware & create opportunities to dialogue in my community,
- * To teach and share the fruit of the parliament with whomever I meet, and
- * To find ways to gather interfaith groups together.

I will:

- 1) Inform people to participate in the World Blessing (Thursdays).
- 2) Continue to teach ESPERANTO, the international language, which puts all nations, races and religions on an equal level, since it is an "artificial language".
- 3) Inform all friends about the Parliament - especially the effective influence which the Native Americans had! *Gertrude Novak*

To bring spirituality into my gardening and share what I learn with others. I will wear the Parliament pin each day to remind myself of that commitment. Each year, up to the year 2000, I will plant one tree in my area to celebrate the future of interfaith understanding. *Julie Patti*

Do: personal exploration.
Do: dedicate my art to the purpose of furthering the goal of planetary healing.
Do: Organize interdisciplinary projects & meetings at the College of Creative Studies.

- 1) To go back to Tulsa Metropolitan ministry to recreate a Parliament of Religions in Tulsa and eventually in Oklahoma. To create a

space for dialogue in these places among all the faith traditions.

2) As co-chair of the interfaith committee for the National Association of Ecumenical Staffs to discern how this Christian organization can invite and celebrate more diversity in our gatherings. *Sr. Sylvia Schmidt*

Hal's commitment - to spend the rest of my life actively engaged in cross-cultural neighborhood happenings in the urban/suburban metro-Chicago area, co-creating small faith communities that include and affirm persons of differences who are called into this common vision. Also-participate in Chicago's newly-born Interfaith Council born this week.

I commit to the children of all faiths.

Work on the dialogue between Native Americans and "New Agers" who are being called to heal the Earth.

Personal commitment through meditation, create poetry and music.
Andrew

I am committed to work for the respect of all traditional people's cultures:

- a) Return of human remains
- b) Return of sacred objects
- c) Protection of people & lands
- d) Access to sacred sites
- e) Freeing of religious leaders in prison. *Melinda Perrin*

I want to continue my membership in the DuPage Interfaith Dialogue Committee. I also want to start an after-school tutoring program in my apartment building to keep ME & KIDS busy!

I intend to spread the feeling I've sensed and to take it to those for whom I am a representative. To help re-fire communitarian and co-operative efforts with those I know. To plant the seed and tend it. To tend myself better as well. *M. Sellers*

My commitment to:

- 1) Complete of M-Div/MTS.
- 2) Offer services to groups to create/develop repeatable training/

education programs (Material development & train-the-trainer as needed).

3) Put ordination on hold if it conflicts with 1 & 2.

4) Continuation of inner journey and increased discipline there-in.
Sandra S. Nesbit

I commit myself to living open to * the mystery in others.

* taking care that my personal choices further our global movement toward wholeness, and

* discovering effective ways for others to participate. *Judith Lindblad*

My commitment is to center myself consistently enough, just as I would in a true dialogue so that my person will be constantly receptive to the myriad of situations, tasks and opportunities I shall find myself in the days to come. In that way I will be doing the work of the world with organization, clarity and true spontaneity without being stagnated and habitual.

Do exactly what I have been doing but be more integrated, be able to have more fun doing it, to honor the child within.

In my regular course of career, I commit myself to work towards improving the religion sections in smaller daily newspapers, both in content and degrees of interest by the readership. *Bert Keilor*

Be more and more aligned with All That Is, physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. Walk my talk, speak my truth wisely in any and all situations.

See if we can create a Chicago-area Parliament of People, drawing on the computer's registration of participants for this Parliament.

I'm going to take back the idea of establishing an Interfaith meditation Garden in my town (through the already-existing Piedmont Interfaith Council) - all faiths buying land together and working it into a garden as adults and children together as a gift to the peoples of the city. *Cathie Holcombe*

As a means of practicing the Golden Rule all faiths share, I am committed to using the six simple steps of negotiation. I shall do this whenever disagreement arises, in order to develop a fair solution - good for all involved. I will also teach and model negotiation as non-violent means I will spread throughout my church, denomination, and the circles and communities within which I live.

I commit to connect during this next month with 3 people I just met at this Council. *S. Frankel*

Support Common Ground and the local interfaith circles.

As the co-chair of the Dialogue Challenge of the Interfaith Conference of Metro-D.C., I will use the Dialogue Model within the Dialogue Challenge area and hopefully in all facets of the conference paradigm. I got into the crystal clear river flow in dialogue today and saw how clear the river is. This is so beneficial to me as a spiritual counselor and will be highly invaluable for two groups that I founded. Thank God dialogue is the highest level of spirituality.

I commit myself to a dialogue with the U.U. minister, RE director etc., to establish a mid-week service in which materials and ideas of the Parliament of the World's Religions will be absorbed and applied. *Barb Johnson, Tampa FL*

Get together with a number of churches that already are organized into a group and inform them of what happened at the Parliament.

Continue teaching from many difference Holy Works and set up lectures with universities in Dallas to teach the Universality of Mankind.

To live the global ethic by trying to save Bosnians right now. No more ethnic "cleansing".

To reward the Abolish Genocide Petition so that it is applicable to my local area so that it can be utilized in the various political arenas.

To network with people of other groups and beliefs to address the ills of our global society within the framework of my religious parameters, based upon its earliest implementation.

To order the tapes of the Parliament for use for others.

I commit to learn the basic tenets of at least 7 world religions and to speak with a representative and/or visit the Houses of Worship of 3 of these in the next 3 months. *S. Frankel*

My personal commitment is to further the possibility of interreligious understanding and cooperation through my work with International Interfaith Centre in Oxford, UK. *Celia Storay, IIC Oxford*

Personal commitment: 1) To further develop the work of Unity and Diversity World Council in doing world festivals that include all religions. 2) To hold regular interfaith celebrations including dialogue. 3) To encourage the Council for the Parliament to continue and to develop ongoing programs in our region and others, culminating in other parliament not later than the year 2000. *Rev. Leland Stewart*

I commit myself to "walking my talk". I will educate myself about the global ecological crisis and do what I can to raise our collective consciousness on environmental issues. *Michael Frasure*

I commit myself to continuing my education so I can be of more service to my fellowman. I am going to continue my healing education, interfaith studies, and discover how I may be able to help a service organization and complete what may be needed. (a degree!?) *Dorothy Roberts*

Facilitate, design interfaith worship services.

To put my spiritual enlightenment back into society through:
- propagating my spiritual practice & understanding others.
- art displays.

- open dialogue with others: a) necessity of tolerance; b) patience; c) negative emotions, etc.

David Mintz - fine artist

I commit to follow-up on this Parliament. London - October 1994. *Andrew, Spirituality - The New Global Fellowship.*

Seeking the company of 1000 idealists to comprehend the Spirit country. *Swami Atmatattwananda; Vedanta Society.*

I'm going to suggest that our local Interfaith Council host a Sacred Arts Performance, and I'll offer to work on it. *Cathie Holcombe*

Personal exploration of other scriptures and meditation techniques. Parliament regularly!

I am committed to leading a spiritual community in St. Louis, MO, USA as a wife and partner with my husband John at the Gateway Divine Science church beginning September 5, 1993. *Jeanne Caryl Copeland*

Share my experience of this week with my organization, World Sustainable Agriculture Assoc. and my church Ann Ree Colton Foundation of Niscience with specific suggestions and information for interested parties. Contact other professional associations of which I am a member distributing materials and/or giving talks/presentations.

I commit to work with groups in the Washington, DC area to build intercultural and interracial understanding.

My commitment is to co-create with the earth to produce food to feed the people who need it and to bring Peace to the people through dance. *Lorna Spring*

I commit to the children ... may I be guided. Amen.

I promise to tell about the world religious conference to my friends (Tibetans). I shall continue to struggle for Independence of our country Tibet which is under Chinese

invasion. May peace prevail on earth and in Tibet. Free Tibet. *Ngoedup Wangno*

It was a pleasure to attend World Parliament of Religions and Parliament of the People. I have got opportunity to meet people of many faiths and many lands. I have realized the common bonds among all faiths. I hope to strengthen these bonds for a better world. It is a good experience for me. *Dr. N.L. Jain, Rewa (India) 486001*

Vigorously pursue the publication of a book entitled "A View of Life: A Theology of Love?" which I have been writing while commuting back and forth to work on a train for the past six years. Up until now I wasn't sure what to do next. I now feel the timing is right and have been empowered by this Parliament to pursue it vigorously. *Douglas A. Larson*

Will get more Muslin, Buddhist and Jewish members into the Minnesota Interfaith Ecology Coalition.
Elizabeth Dyson

I commit myself to be more confident regarding my new belief that each and every tradition offers something that will help our own spirituality. I also hope to make our inter-faith clergy group meetings more worthwhile by encouraging each tradition to share what they are all about. This will really help to connect and unify us as a group. *Mary McGovern*

I am committed to helping persons in the church to think together about a sustainable future for Planet Earth.
Margie Tomlinson

I commit myself to full time work uniting ecology and religion - to work on networking and skill building (dialogue). *Andrea Orcutt*

I am committed to work for world wide religious freedom: a) Access to sacred sites; b) Access to sacred objects; c) Right to practice with all religious materials, i.e. peyote; d) Right to congregate freely; e) Right to language *Melinda Perrin*

I will work through my Peace and Justice Committee within my church to continue our dialogue with Black Christians but expand to open our minds and group to include all faiths. Send more love and healing to my son and all other Fundamentalists. Make my circle include them.

Continue to participate by sharing The Source with groups, increase the use of silence in multi-cultural, inter-faith groups as a way of building community. *Ellen E. Howie*

When I return to California I will enlarge my contacts from my local Presbyterian Church into the local United Nations and Peace Organizations as well as the arboretum. I will speak to other faiths, if allowed, through the Academy of Jewish, Christian and Islamic Studies. I will offer to spread the news of the aims of the Parliament to the local Buddhist Community.
Althea B.M. Laven

I will commit to create a Sacred Arts Festival in my locality. Let's celebrate the awe and beauty of the Divine as each of our faiths see it by sharing with one another sacred celebration of music, dance, song and art. Let's also share how each of our faiths approach creating art.
Phaedrus of EarthSpirit Community-Boston, MA.

I commit myself to sharing the vision I have seen and experienced here with my affiliations, friends and community. *Dorothy Roberts*

I commit to abiding in my sanctuary space at least once a day while I am home. *I Frankel*

I am committed to the health of Planet Earth: a) walking and living gently in a conscious way; b) learning more about her care; c) teaching others; d) working for change in laws; e) awakening minds. *Melinda I. Pin*

I'm going to issue a call at my church to form a group that works on creative worship services on Wednesday nights, and incorporate in those some

worship practices of other cultures.
Cathie Holcombe

I commit to join with others to create opportunities for people to experience being part of one human family as a global celebration. a) In my work as a consultant in conflict resolution, community building working in the secular/religious environment. b) Reasons the relationship between man and woman is only in marriage and in Joseph's and my relationship. *Ongria Swain*

Seek out members of different faiths and continue the dialogue begun here. Support education of children about all faiths and cultures. Start an interfaith garden.

I am committed to learning more about spiritual and religious traditions and diversity, to more fully participate in the inter-faith process and the creation of a unified world. Take the ideas of a community garden and education of children re: all religions into the world.

I believe that: (1) at the level of personal consciousness, all religions can unite together. We're to develop collective consciousness for mutual understanding, love and harmony. For this, mass prayers of people of all faiths will be performed by my organization; (2) To propagate scientific religion irrespective of faith amongst youngsters, I've dwelled all over the globe and will continue it till 2000 AD. Till now 100,000 youngsters all over the globe comply with this thinking. (3) Publish the commitments as dedicated words in Journals/magazines. *Dr. Pzanar Pandya, MD*