

“In Our Hands”

Becoming Peace Makers and Justice Builders

- Peace and justice are necessarily interdependent. Each requires the other. Real peace is not possible without justice.
- The means for achieving peace and justice must be congruent with the ends of peace and justice.
- Even as ideal goals, peace and justice must not be viewed as states of perfect accord. A just and peaceful world will not be without disagreement and conflict or the exercise of power
- The objective of peace and justice education is peace and justice making. It engages people to stimulate and encourage their development as makers of peace and justice: within their own psyches, in their relationships with others, in their roles as citizens of a nation and members of a religious group, and their identification as humans living on earth.

Guest Speakers:

Members from the congregation who are currently or recently involved in peace making or justice promoting activities, including social service, social witness, social education, and social action will talk to the class about their experiences as peace makers and justice builders. Explorers will see that adults from the congregation are involved in working to make the world fairer and more peaceful. Guests can expect to speak, sing, or share, for 5-8 minutes in the first half of class.

Social Action Projects:

Explorers will experience peace making and justice building while they participate in activities and field trips to help the community, such as Project Linus and trash pick up.

Volunteers: Help is always needed and appreciated, whether it is ideas for social action, assistance in the classroom, or bringing snacks. Contact dre@tapestryuu.org to help.

Session 1: Peace, Getting Along

Goals: To experience comfort and belonging within the group. To enhance sense of self and self worth. To perceive the specialness of others and the need to treat others with respect.

Session 2: Defining Fairness and Justice

Goals: To explore the meaning of justice. To experience the feeling of injustice and unfairness. To see and name injustice when it occurs.

Session 3: Peaceful and Hurtful Actions

Goals: To gain an understanding that real peace is not possible without real justice. To articulate and explore their current understanding of peace and justice. To gain an understanding that working for peace is a choice.

Session 4: Caring and Friends

Goals: To gain greater awareness of the feelings and inner experiences of other people. To explore ways of responding to the feelings and experiences of other people. To explore the meaning of friend and enemy. To explore what it means to be a friend, to have a friend, and to have an enemy.

Session 5: Valuing Diversity

Goals: To understand that people who are different from each other can nonetheless accept and respect each other and be friends. To expand the awareness of human diversity and gain greater respect. To explore the concept of prejudice and stereotype. To define the concept of conflict and begin to explore its meaning.

Session 6: Conflict Resolution

Goals: To explore causes of conflict. To explore how hostility can be transformed into cooperation. To explore some of the ways people come to see others as enemies. To explore conflict resolution and the idea of win/win strategies.

Session 7: Creative Conflict Resolution

Goals: To learn the importance of communicating feelings clearly in conflict situations. To practice feelings through “I” messages. To practice applying win/win strategies. To explore how the experience of cooperation feels inside oneself.

Session 8: Cooperation

Goals: To explore the nature of cooperation and consider its role in creative conflict resolution. To learn the benefits of mutual helping. To experience consensual decision- making. To deepen commitment to peace and justice

Session 9: Making Peace and Building Justice

Goals: To hear the stories of King Sigismund and Samantha Smith and explore the ways in which they acted for peace and justice. To explore the connection between values inherent in their action and the values of UUism.

Session 10: From Wishing to Doing

Goals: To explore wishes for fairness and peace for ourselves, our families, and the world. To consider the idea that it is important to express one’s wishes for peace and fairness through action.



Tapestry, a Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Mission Viejo, California

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Religious Exploration for Children and Youth

RECY

Explorer Summer 2009

Peace & Justice



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*Becoming Peace Makers &
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- *Peacemakers (Preschool – 6)*
- *Youth Group (7-12)*