



Judaism, Christianity, and Islam have a common heritage in the Tent of Abraham—his call by God, his faithfulness in response, and his fathering of Ishmael and Isaac, through whom the three Abrahamic faiths trace their spiritual lineages.

The purpose of the Peace Conference states: “Because there can be no peace without better understanding, respect, and cooperation among Earth’s faith communities, we seek a deeper dialogue among persons of the three Abrahamic faiths. Through this dialogue we seek better ways to advocate for peace, security, and the dignity of all people.”

Join us for this time of learning about one another’s faith traditions, examining what each brings to the search for peace, celebrating our common heritage, and exploring ways we can be more effective “Peace Builders” in our local communities. Coming in the days of reflection and prayer between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur and at the conclusion of the fasting days of Ramadan, Christians can join Jews and Muslims in a time of repentance and renewal for us all.

Speakers from each faith will describe what their scriptures and practices have to bring to the Table of Peace. Workshops will teach skills in being Peace Builders. Through prayers, celebrations, and the arts we will experience what each contributes to the search for peace.

Lake Junaluska Peace Conference Speakers ...



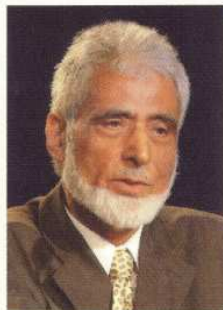
Archbishop Elias Chacour:

Father Chacour, a native Palestinian, was ordained a priest in the Melkite Catholic Church in 1965. In 2006, he became the Archbishop Metropolitan of the Melkite Diocese of Akka, Haifa, Nazareth, and all of Galilee in Israel. He has long been a strong voice for peace and reconciliation in Palestine and Israel and has worked with all factions and faiths. He received the World Methodist Peace Award in 1994, has been nominated three times for the Nobel Peace Prize, and is the recipient of several other awards for his work in peace ventures. His books, *Blood Brothers* (with David Hazard) and *We Belong to the Land: The Story of a Palestinian Israeli Who Lives for Peace and Reconciliation* (with Mary E. Jensen), are widely read.



Rabbi Arthur O. Waskow:

Rabbi Waskow has been one of the creators and leaders of Jewish renewal and of several important interfaith projects addressing issues of peace, justice, and healing of the Earth. He founded the Shalom Center in 1983 and has been its director since then, shaping it into a prophetic voice. With Sister Joan Chittister and Sufi teacher Murshid Saadi Shakur Chishti, he co-authored *The Tent of Abraham: Stories of Hope and Peace for Jews, Christians, and Muslims*. In 1995, he was named by the United Nations one of forty Wisdom-Keepers in connection with the Habitat II Conference. In 2007, Newsweek named him one of the fifty most influential American rabbis.



Dr. Sayyid M. Syeed:

Dr. Syeed, a naturalized American citizen, is the National Director of Interfaith and Community Alliances for the Islamic Society of North America. The ISNA is an umbrella organization with 300 affiliates across the US and Canada. He has been actively involved in fostering understanding among the world’s religions and has participated in interfaith dialogues at different levels. In 2001, the Catholic Heritage Foundation gave him their Lifetime Achievement Award for distinguished service in furthering the Islamic tradition and for promoting inter-religious understanding and harmony.



Dr. Lisa Schirch:

Dr. Schirch is professor of peace-building at Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Virginia. She serves as executive director of the 3D Security Initiative, which promotes civil society perspectives on conflict prevention and peace-building in US security policy-making. With her colleagues at EMU, Dr. Schirch has been involved in conflict prevention, stabilization, and peace-building activities throughout the US, Latin America, Africa, Asia, and Europe. She had written four books (most recently, with David Campt, *A Little Book of Dialogue for Difficult Subjects: A Practical Hands-On Guide*) and numerous articles on conflict prevention and peace-building.