



Parish Action Network

The Parish Action Network (PAN) is a means for a large number of Episcopalians—not just EPF members—to take effective and coordinated action. PAN consists of EPF representatives in WNY parishes who have agreed to bring peace concerns to their fellow parishioners when asked to do so by the chapter. For example, when a vote is coming up on Congress on a vital peace issue, the chapter can e-mail information to the representatives, who will contact people in their parishes. In this scenario, we can generate, within a week, hundreds of calls or e-mails.

Contacts and Members

If you're curious, sign up for our mailing list. You can do this on our web site or by e-mail to info@epfwny.org. This entails no commitment, but allows you to receive information. You can stop receiving e-mails whenever you wish.

Most of all, we need members. To be a member, you should agree with the *EPF Commitment* and pay dues. Dues go to the national office; we are self-funded locally. Use the form in this brochure to join.



For More Information

Visit the chapter web site <http://epfwny.org>, e-mail us at info@epfwny.org, or call the chapter convener, Steve Hart, at 716.837.7461.



western
new york
chapter

web site <http://epfwny.org>
e-mail info@epfwny.org

Introducing EPF-WNY

EPF is an organization of peace-minded Episcopalians that has existed nationally since 1939, with dozens of chapters around the country. The Western New York chapter was launched in Fall 2006.

EPF is not a pacifist organization. Some members reject all wars, while others believe, for example, that World War II was just and the war in Vietnam was unjust. Despite these gradations, all EPF members share a strong commitment to peace and justice, and affirm the national *EPF Commitment* reprinted in this brochure.

The Vision of the WNY Chapter

The Episcopal Church's national leaders make excellent statements on peace issues, and parishes are full of people with a strong peace concern. But we need to organize ourselves so that we can carry out practical activities more effectively. Chapter goals include:

- working within Episcopal parishes and dioceses in this region to increase awareness and action on peace.
- studying and praying together, for mutual support and to learn about contemporary peace issues and better understand how faith and peacemaking are linked.

The theology of violence must not lose sight of the real problem which is not the individual with a revolver but death and even genocide as big business. But this big business of death is all the more innocent and effective because it involves a long chain of individuals, each of whom can feel himself absolved from responsibility, and each of whom can perhaps salve his conscience by contributing with a more meticulous efficiency to his part in the massive operation. —Thomas Merton, *Faith & Violence*, p. 6

- presenting the peace witness of the Episcopal Church to the wider community.

- working with other peace-oriented people, and with the WNY Peace Center and Interfaith Peace Network, to impact U.S. foreign and military policy (particularly in areas of the world where our country is using military force), nuclear weapons, and other contemporary issues. Here we work collaboratively with those who share our peace goals, regardless of their religious affiliation.

The Chapter's formal mission statement can be found on the chapter web site.

What the Chapter Does

The chapter has regular meetings, with varied purposes. All meetings include meditation, prayer or worship. Some meetings have an educational focus, while others are primarily concerned with business.

The chapter maintains a mailing list (with contact primarily by e-mail), and a web site with information about the chapter and its work, and links to the national EPF site and other Episcopal and peace organizations.

The chapter is active at diocesan conventions.



EPF table at WNY Diocesan Convention, October 2006

It sends speakers and provides information and materials to parishes and deaneries that wish to hear about our perspective and work.

In the public arena, the chapter organizes and encourages members to attend congressional visits, rallies, and other peace events. Further, if adopted by the chapter, it participates in peace projects initiated by the WNY Peace Center, Interfaith Peace Network, and national peace organizations.

The EPF Commitment

For Christians working to establish God's kingdom here on earth, the violence which permeates our society demands a Christian response. As a member of the Episcopal Peace fellowship, I join with other Episcopalians who seek a deliberate, Christian response to violence that is in keeping with our baptismal covenant to "...strive for justice and peace among all people...."

In loyalty to the person, teaching and Lordship of Jesus Christ, my conscience commits me to His way of redemptive love: to pray, study,

and work for peace, and to renounce, so far as possible, participation in war, militarism, and all other forms of violence.

In fellowship with others of like mind, I will work to discover and create alternatives to violence and to build a culture of peace. As a member of the holy catholic church, I urge the Episcopal Church in accordance with our baptismal vows, "to renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God" and to wage peace across all boundaries, calling upon people everywhere to repent, to forgive, and to love.

Contact/Membership Form

Become a member (suggested dues \$40). *I have read and affirm the EPF Commitment (found in this brochure).*

Get on the mailing list

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____

Parish _____

City _____ Diocese _____

lay clergy

I might consider serving as a Parish Representative in PAN (described in this brochure)

Who else in your parish might be interested in the EPF? *List names below; we will obtain contact information later.*

Please mail this form to Steve Hart, 185 Admiral Road, Buffalo NY 14216. Make checks payable to "Episcopal Peace Fellowship."