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Living Water
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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, and each representative can contact people in her or his parish—perhaps at coffee hour the next Sunday. In this scenario, we might generate, within a week, hundreds of calls to local U.S. Representatives. In short, the network will be a means for a large number of Episcopalians to take effective and coordinated action.

The PAN will be activated selectively, to avoid burning out parish representatives. Decisions to activate will be made by the chapter's elected leadership. Activation will usually be in collaboration with the EPF national office, the WNY Peace Center, or other peace organizations. The idea is to act in concert with others, not alone.

When the PAN brings out Episcopalians for public events, members will be equipped with EPF lapel stickers so that the Episcopal presence will be visible to others at the event.

Parish priests would not be expected to serve as representatives.

Contacts and Members

We encourage people to sign up to be on our mailing list. Later that will be done on the web, but for now please e-mail us at 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, currently \$40 (or a lesser amount if this is burdensome). Dues go to the national office; we are self-funded locally.

For More Information

Visit the chapter website (epfwny.org), e-mail us at info@epfwny.org, or call the chapter convenor, Steve Hart, at 716.837.7461.



EPF
Western New
York Chapter

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

Introducing EPF-WNY

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

The EPF is not a pacifist organization. Some members reject all wars, while others might believe, for example, that World War II was just and the war in Vietnam was unjust. In practice this difference seldom leads to disagreement on particular peace issues.

The core position shared by all EPF members is the EPF commitment, a formal statement adopted by the organization nationally.

The Mission of the WNY Chapter

The Episcopal Church's national leaders make excellent statements on peace issues, and at the grassroots our parishes are full of people with a strong peace concern. What we need is to organize ourselves so that we are more connected to each other and can carry on practical activities more effectively. Chapter goals include:

- working with other peace-oriented people, and particularly with the WNY Peace Center, to impact U.S. policy on Iraq, Palestine, nuclear weapons, weapons sales, and other current issues.

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.

- working within Episcopal parishes and dioceses in WNY (including the Dioceses of Rochester and Central NY, and nearby areas of Canada) to increase awareness and action on peace.

- studying and praying together, to increase our own wisdom, support one another, understand the links between our faith and peace-making, and build a strong spiritual foundation for our peace work.

- building awareness in the wider community of the Episcopal Church and its work for peace.

Our practical activities on immediate issues

such as Iraq will be collaborative. But we also need to understand and work to counter the sources of war, and in particular the reasons why our country got into Vietnam and Iraq. This work may involve educating ourselves and engaging Episcopalians in our region.

Fulfilling the Mission

The chapter has regular meetings, with varied purposes. All meetings include prayer or worship. In addition, many meetings have an educational focus: a video, speaker, reading, or other input for us to respond to. Other meetings are primarily concerned with business: deciding on our approach to current issues, recruiting new members, organizing future activities, making decisions about chapter directions, and the like.

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 peace and Episcopal organizations.

It runs a table at diocesan conventions, and expects to send speakers occasionally to Episcopal parishes interested in hearing them.

In the public arena, the chapter will have speakers or be represented at congressional visits, rallies, or other peace events. It will participate in peace projects initiated by the WNY Peace Center and national peace organizations that have been adopted by the chapter.

Parish Action Network

Since a core mission of the chapter is to activate and organize grass-roots Episcopalians, it is building a Parish Action Network (PAN). The PAN will consist of people who have agreed to be parish EPF representatives (2 or 3 per parish) in as many WNY parishes as possible. These representatives will bring peace concerns to their fellow parishioners when asked to do so by the

Contact/Membership Form

- Become a member (suggested dues \$40)
- Get on the mailing list

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____

Parish _____

City _____ Diocese _____

- lay deacon priest bishop

Would you like to be added to the e-mail list of the WNY Peace Center? yes no

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

Please mail this form, and if you are joining a check to "Episcopal Peace Fellowship," to Steve Hart, 185 Admiral Road, Buffalo NY 14216.