



Training Application Form

If you represent a local congregation, faith-based community organization, grass-roots group, social service agency, or a coalition of congregations and organizations seeking to be a catalyst for community transformation, you may want to be a part of the dynamic movement called Communities of Shalom. This multicultural, multifaith, international network of community development sites is housed and coordinated at Drew University in partnership with the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church.

Please review the vision, mission, history, values, principles, and training overview on our website: www.communitiesofshalom.org and/or contact us at the International Shalom Resource Center at Drew University Theological School for further information. We are located at 12 Campus Drive on the University campus in Madison, NJ. 973-408-3848 shalom@drew.edu



Why consider becoming a Community Shalom?

The *ShalomZone* approach to community development should be considered by congregations, organizations, and coalitions who wish to increase their capacity for community transformation through specialized training and proven strategies of faith-based community development. A site becomes a Community of Shalom upon completion of a seven-session training program, submission and approval of a Shalom Plan, and annual registration with the International Shalom Resource Center.

What is the major benefit of becoming a Community of Shalom?

Shalom team members will receive basic training in the Six Threads of Shalom: *systemic engagement, community health, asset-based community development, love-in-action, community organizing, and multicultural collaboration*. Advanced and Specialized Trainings also are available from the International Shalom Resource Center, Regional Shalom Centers, and training partners. Technical assistance and relational support are provided by a network of regional trainers certified by Drew University. Upon successful completion of the training program, and submission and approval of a qualifying Shalom Plan, new sites are able to share the *ShalomZone* training materials, access the *Communities of Shalom* network, and use the Shalom brand to communicate their identity and associations. “*Approved Plan, use the Band.*”

Does a church or community organization have to be United Methodist to apply for training or become a Community of Shalom?

No. Any local congregation or faith-based community group may apply with the requirement that at least one of the ministry partners is a United Methodist Church or organization. Or that the coalition links itself in some way to a United Methodist ministry.

How long does it generally take to become a Shalom Site? And what is the process?

Generally, the process takes a year and begins with an information meeting conducted by a representative of Communities of Shalom. This two-hour session provides an overview of the seven-session *ShalomZone Training*® program, providing in-depth answers to specific questions about the Shalom approach to asset-based community development. A short PowerPoint presentation is available when a representative cannot be sent.

Interested parties organize Shalom Teams consisting of congregational members, community residents, agency representatives, coalition members, partner organizations, and community leaders (about 8-15 people representing the diversity of a particular community). When there are at least three prospective sites in a given geographical area (a city, district, Annual Conference or region), applications can be submitted to the International Shalom Resource Center at Drew University.

Applications are available online at www.communitiesofshalom.org . Once three shalom teams apply for training in a geographical area, an initial consultation can be scheduled. When a financial sponsor has been identified or a cost-recovery provision is in place, the training sessions can be scheduled (usually over a six month period of time, totaling 40 contact hours).

ShalomZone Training® usually is conducted by an approved and certified Regional Shalom Trainer or Local Facilitator on a contract bases. Actual costs will vary by location, but generally seven days of training will cost between \$3,000-4,000 over the six-month period.

The specific issues a Shalom team will focus on will depend on the specific neighborhood needs and resources. A Community of Shalom may focus on creating affordable housing, reducing gang violence, providing job training, or planting a community garden, etc. Each team will work out their areas of focus as part of their training. Once a Shalom Plan is created and approved, your new ShalomZone is part of the international network.

How do we apply for training and become a Community of Shalom?

- ❖ Do your research on Communities of Shalom by reviewing the website and other sources of information.
- ❖ Gather a group of congregational members and community leaders who live, work or worship in a particular community to review the information and discern whether there is a ‘mission match’ with Communities of Shalom.
- ❖ Make a request for an Information Meeting or On-site Consultation with a Shalom representative to discuss the Shalom Initiative in further detail.
- ❖ Be prayerful as you begin to organize a leadership team and enlist the support, partnership and endorsement from other faith communities, businesses, community residents, schools, social services, and other community organizations that reside in the targeted community.

- ❖ Identify a minimum of eight to ten persons who are willing to commit to six months of training (one day a month for seven months, or two days a month for 4 months, with planning assignments in between training sessions).
- ❖ Submit this application to the International Shalom Resource Center at Drew University and recruit two other sites to do the same. (We need to have at least three sites in a region to commit to a training program).
- ❖ Have the United Methodist Church partner discuss this application to the Conference Shalom Coordinator or Director of Connectional Ministries for regional review, endorsement and possible funding. Then submit at least three completed applications to the International Shalom Resource Center for access to certified Regional Trainers and scheduling.

For further information, contact the International Shalom Resource Center at Drew University, 12 Campus Drive, Madison, NJ 07940. shalom@drew.edu 973-408-3848



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1. Name, address, phone and email of Primary Contact Person:

2. Location of Proposed Shalom Zone: _____

3. Primary Contact Organization: (Name, address, phone & e-mail)

4. Name of participating United Methodist Church(es) within the geographically-defined Shalom Site:

5. Names and contact information for other participating congregations and community organizations within your Shalom Site (Collaboration is an important principle of Shalom site organizing):

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

6. **Organizational Profile:** Briefly describe each congregation and organization; mission, membership and capacity to serve community:

7. **Community Profile:**

7a. Population: _____ % of African American _____ Asian _____ Hispanic _____
Native American _____ White _____ Undocumented Workers _____

7b. Number of churches in the community _____ Number of community organizations _____

7c. What are some strengths of your congregation and community?

7d. What are the significant issues that your community faces?

7e. How has your congregation, organization, and community responded to these issues?

8. Why would your community and participating congregations and organizations make a good Community of Shalom?

9. Name of person preparing this application: _____

Phone (____) _____ Email: _____

We have read the application information, explored the Communities of Shalom website and agree to work within the guidelines.

10. Signatures

Primary Contact:

Secondary Site Representative:

_____ Date _____

_____ Date _____

Return this form electronically to shalom@drew.edu

Or mail to: Communities of Shalom, International Resource Center
Drew University Theological School
36 Madison Avenue
12 Campus Drive
Madison, NJ 07940

For more information or clarification on application please e-mail us or call 973-408-3848.

**** United Methodist Churches proceed to pages 6 for Annual Conference approval and signatures.**

Annual Conference or Judicatory

This portion is to be completed by the Conference Shalom Coordinator or Director of Connectional Ministries in Annual Conference office or the appropriate judicatory officer of a congregation's faith community. Upon completion, please forward a copy of approved application forms to:

**The Shalom Initiative
Drew University Theological School
36 Madison Avenue, Madison, NJ
(973) 408-3848 or shalom@drew.edu**

Annual Conference Name: _____

List the names of the Shalom Sites you will be recommending.

Why will your recommended sites form a good Shalom Community?

What financial support are you presently giving to the recommended Shalom congregations and what additional funding do you anticipate in the future? Would you be willing to provide matching funds for a \$2,000 seed grant from the National Office once a Shalom Plan is submitted and approved?

Please provide the name and coordinates of the conference staff person who will be responsible for coordinating the Shalom effort within your Annual Conference:

Shalom Coordinator: _____ Date _____

Address _____

Phone () _____ E-mail _____

Approval Signatures Needed:

Bishop _____ Date _____

Director of Connectional Ministries _____ Date _____