



Rev. Levy Laguardia welcomes Dr. Michael Christensen to his Shalom Zone United Methodist Church in Dallas, Texas.

Shalom, as employed by the prophets, has many threads of meaning: health, healing, harmony, welfare, wholeness, and well-being. This rich fabric can be missed when we simply translate the Hebrew word as 'peace'.

"Seek the shalom of the city where I have sent you, for in it's shalom, you will find your shalom." –Jeremiah 29:7

Transform a community, transform the world

Communities of Shalom Initiative

Dr. Michael J. Christensen, National Director
 Drew University Theological School
 12 Campus Drive
 Madison, NJ 07940
 Ph 973-408-3848
 shalom@drew.edu



Maxine Clarke Beach, Dean, Drew University Theological School, Shalom Initiative, and Bishop John Schol, Chair, National Shalom Committee

Credo of a Community Developer

by Y. C. James Yen¹

- Go to the people
- Live among them
- Learn from them
- Plan with them
- Work with them
- Start with what they know
- Build on what they have
- Teach by showing
- Learn by doing
- Not a showcase but a pattern
- Not odds and ends but a system
- Not piecemeal but an integrated approach
- Not to conform but to transform
- Not for relief but release
- "And when the best leader's work is done the people say, "We did it ourselves!" - Lao-tsu*

Want to participate?

To contact a shalom ministry near you, request shalom training and/or become a new community of shalom, visit:

www.CommunitiesofShalom.org



Support Shalom by giving to The ADVANCE # 742566 through The General Board of Global Ministries, United Methodist Church;



Or by contributing to the Shalom Initiative at Drew University, 36 Madison Ave, Madison, NJ 07940

Communities of Shalom at Drew University



Communities of Shalom seek to build community, weave unity, and transform the world one community at a time.

A “shalom zone” is a faith-based empowerment zone of four square city blocks, or a neighborhood of one-square mile, or a rural community of many households where shalom work is active.



Communities of Shalom is a grass-roots, faith-inspired, community development network in the USA and Africa

- Initiated by the General Conference of the United Methodist Church in Los Angeles in 1992, which quickly spread to other shalom zones.
- Supporting local congregations and community groups as they work together with representatives of all faith traditions and community organizations to create economically and ecologically sustainable communities of peace, justice, hope, healing and wholeness in which all God’s people experience shalom.
- Coordinated and equipped by Drew University Theological School in partnership with the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church



Building the Future Together

to engage congregations and communities to build a future of hope and peace together through multi-cultural, multi-faith collaboration.

Weaving a Single Garment of Destiny

to reweave the fabric of community through broad-based organizing and economic development.

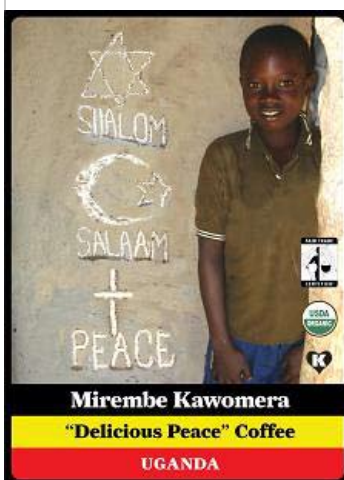
The ‘single garment of destiny’ envisioned by King may be woven with the many intentions behind the words for peace, including: shalom, salaam, shanti, sipala, pax, paz, pes, mir, and mirembe.

Transforming the World One Community at a Time

The Shalom Resource Center at Drew University provides on-going training, technical assistance, and relational support to registered communities of shalom.

What do Communities of Shalom do in the world?

- Combat extreme poverty in Appalachia
- Work to reduce high murder rate in Baltimore
- Provide legal services for illegal immigrants in Dallas
- Build affordable housing in Richmond
- Coordinate community services on native reservations in the Dakotas
- Engage in addiction and recovery ministries in Little Rock
- Create green ShalomZones in Scranton and Santa Cruz
- Raise hope through mobile health clinics in Houston and Ghana
- Organize micro enterprises in Zimbabwe and Malawi
- Reduce gang violence in Newark



Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote:
“...all of life is interrelated. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality; tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. As long as there is poverty in the world, no one can be totally rich...”



Build • Weave • Transform

Communities of Shalom@drew.edu

ShalomTraining organizes and equips local ministry teams in asset-based and collaborative approaches to systemic change, economic prosperity, healing and health, and sustainability.

This six-point approach to community transformation can be easily remembered by the letters of **SHALOM:**

- S** = systemic and sustainable change
- H** = healing, health, harmony and wholeness
- A** = asset-based community development
- L** = love for God, self and neighbor
- O** = organizing for direct action
- M** = multicultural, multifaith collaboration



From left to right:

- Imam W. Deen Shareef, Rabbi Matthew Gewirtz, Rev. Reginald Osborne and other members of Newark Interfaith Coalition for Hope and Peace at Bradley Court public housing interfaith prayer service.
- Rev. Christensen and Rabbi Brockman displaying historic photo of Rabbi Goldberg and Martin Luther King, Jr. visiting Congregation Mishkan Israel, New Haven, CT in 1961.
- Wilbert Mitchell, Executive Director of Respond, Inc. with Chad Boling, Drew shalom intern, displaying community mapping of shalom zone in North Camden, New Jersey.