

Subject: Church Growth & Management – Peace Statement

On October 20, 2002, the RSC Board of Directors drafted the following statement regarding the Center's stance on making a public statement on any peace initiatives:

“Peace is one of the fundamental tenets of our philosophy within Religious Science. We affirm that peace is within us and around us. At every opportunity, we affirm that there is peace in our hearts, our lives, our families, communities, cities, states, nation and the planet. We pray for peace every Sunday, and we sing the peace song at the end of every service.

As representatives of our Community, we support all initiatives for peace, particularly in the following areas:

1. There is a standing policy regarding the rent-free use of our facility. The Board welcomes specific proposals for dates and times for gatherings that promote peace. These would either be as a one-time gathering or as ongoing meetings. They would be assessed against the available schedule and the mission/vision of the Center.
2. Since as a religious community, peace is at the core, the Board would welcome the establishment of a group that would specifically hold the consciousness of peace. Its goal could be to elevate the peace consciousness throughout our community, city, etc. We recognize that there are all kinds of opinions as to how peace should be pursued. We also recognize that under the belief that we are all One, advocacy for one opinion or policy would be to deny and disenfranchise all other opinions or policies. This goes against our fundamental belief of unification, that we are all one and that there is one God of which we are all an individualized expression. Therefore, we, as a Board of Directors, would not support a public advocacy for, or against, any policy of our state or national government. We specifically decline to publicly advocate for, or against, the current Administration's policies with regards to Iraq.
3. We believe that strategies for raising the consciousness for peace will come out of the ongoing work of the group discussed in item two above. The Board would welcome a proposal for any specific initiative for peace and specifically would welcome a proposal for a peace prayer vigil to be held in our sanctuary.
4. As discussed above, the Board feels that an advocacy for or against any policy or position is not in keeping with the fundamental beliefs and teachings of the Science of Mind. Furthermore, it declines to take any position for or against any such policies. We would not presume to speak for any members of our community, who have every freedom to take whatever advocacy position they choose as individuals. However, this interpretation of our mission/vision does not rule out some future discussion with the entire community, where a different interpretation may be taken.”