

**Subject: Community Outreach -- Gandhi's Way and the Global Heart**

Submitted by: Rev. Joan J. McKenna

Until recently, I have struggled with the Global Heart theme of our reorganization and as the purpose of our organization. I accept that this is because I am more of a strategist than most, and I was "hearing" nothing about "how" we would implement this concept in our churches, etc.

As Visioning was to lead us, I spent a number of months Visioning and rejecting a thought that kept recurring. The thought was that a book by Mark Juergensmeyer that I have called "Fighting With Gandhi" was "my" answer.

This book has recently been republished by the University of California Press as Gandhi's Way, A Handbook of Conflict Resolution.

I believe that this book offers us, as a denomination, a way to show up in the world as people who demonstrate a compassionate perspective and pro-active approach to conflict resolution that allows all to have dignity, respect and fulfillment of their desire for greater good.

I had first come across Mark Juergensmeyer's writing about Gandhi in a course I took on the Psychology of War. Having a ministry in a community with a major military base and many retired military, I had found that many people LIKE conflict, LIKE competition, and were, to me, ADDICTED to the enormous amount of human energy that such conflicts evoked in them and in others. I found a course at the California Institute for Integral Studies and I signed up, was given a xeroxed workbook of articles and in there was a reprint of the first 70 pages of Juergensmeyer's book.

Juergensmeyer is currently a professor of Sociology and Director of Global and International Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He is the author of Terror in the Mind of God (a book on religious terrorism) (2001) and The new Cold War? Religious Nationalism Confronts the Secular State (1993).

I have obtained forty copies of Gandhi's Way for our Visioning Core, Rev. Kathy and the Council. At our December meeting, the ministers in Northern California UCORS are already very interested and want to initiate programs with the re-released book. Since this email is now overly long, I will send another that shows the table of contents.

I would like to propose that our denomination take this on as a two or three year program to train our people in this method of conflict resolution. It is truly a change of heart and mind. The representative from the University of California Press has said that if we did take this on, they would make a special arrangement with us for a special printing of the book to meet our requirements.

If this resonates with you, you may want to order the book now from Amazon or your book vendor or directly from the UC Press. List is \$15.95