

## All are welcome to attend . . . .

Religious leaders (lay and professional), educators, students, HR managers, and anyone interested in experiencing the religious diversity of the Kansas City region and in shaping how the faiths work together in the future

## Registration [ ] Tell me about 1-day options

Registration includes vegetarian meals as scheduled, notebook and other materials.

Please complete and mail with your check .  
(\$ \_\_\_\_\_ low income \$15 student \$75 regular)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Faith Community \_\_\_\_\_

Accessibility Needs \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary Restrictions \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] Send me hotel information

Email to: [ifc@cres.org](mailto:ifc@cres.org)

-or-

Mail to: Interfaith Conference  
Box 45414  
KC, MO 64171

### Kansas City Interfaith Council

-  American Indian  
*Kara Hawkins*
-  Bahá'í  
*Barb McAtee*
-  Buddhism  
*Chuck Stanford*
-  Christianity, Protestant  
*The Rev Dr Wallace Hartsfield*
-  Christianity, R Catholic  
*George M Noonan*
-  Hinduism  
*Anand Bhattacharyya*
-  Islam  
*A Rauf Mir, MD*
-  Judaism  
*Rabbi Joshua Taub*
-  Sikh Dharma  
*Karta Purkh S Khalsa*
-  Sufism  
*Ali Kadr*
-  Unitarian Universalism  
*Ted Otteson*
-  Wicca  
*Mike Nichols*
-  Zoroastrianism  
*Daryoush Jahanian, MD*
-  Vedanta Observer – *Uma*

Convener, *The Rev Vern Barnet, DMn*  
Chair, *The Rev David E Nelson, DMIn*  
Coordinator, *The Rev Gene Flanery*

**Observers from world headquarters:**  
*W Grant McMurray, Community of Christ*  
*William C Miller, Church of the Nazarene*  
*Sharon Connors, Unity School of Christianity*

formed in 1989. Its activities are reported in the CRES bulletin, *Many Paths*. Each year on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, representatives of faith communities in the Kansas City area speak and eat together at an Interfaith Thanksgiving Sunday Ritual Meal open to the public. Mayor Kay Barnes is the most recent recipient of our interfaith award.

*Contributions to support the conference are welcomed.  
Checks should be drawn to "CRES" and marked  
"Interfaith Conference support."*

The Kansas City Interfaith Council is hosted by CRES, promoting understanding among peoples of all faiths  
Box 45414, Kansas City, MO 64171, [www.cres.org](http://www.cres.org)

Management for the conference is provided by CRES and co-sponsored by NCCJ, KC Harmony, and Spirit of Service.

The mission of the Council is

1. to develop deeper understanding among members of the Council of each other's faiths and traditions, and to foster appropriate bilateral and multi-lateral interreligious conversations

2. to model religious values (especially mutual respect and cooperation) in a society which often seems non-religious and intolerant

3. to provide resources, networking, and programs to increase appreciation for religious diversity, and

4. to work with media and with educational and religious leaders and groups in promoting accurate and fair portrayal of the faiths.

The Council was

Pre-conference brochure 10<sup>th</sup> DRAFT

# The Gifts of Pluralism

## In a World Without Direction We Find the Sacred



### Shaping the Future of Religion in the Kansas City area

*for everyone interested in learning  
about world religions and how they address  
today's environmental, personal, and social issues  
using the "Appreciative Inquiry" method*

**Pembroke Hill School**  
Ward Parkway Campus, 5121 State Line

October 26-28, 2001

convened by  
**The Kansas City Interfaith Council**  
a program of the Center for Religious Experience and Study "CRES"

# The Gifts of Pluralism

Finding the Sacred in a World without Direction

Join us in shaping the future of religion in the greater Kansas City area by —

1. Acquainting ourselves with the richness of religious diversity in the greater Kansas City area
2. Learning how to learn from one another in the depths of faith
3. Discovering our own faiths anew by encounter with others
4. Articulating the wisdom in the faith traditions which can heal the crises of secularism — environmental degradation, personal distress, loss of true community, local and global
5. Celebrating the arts and traditions which enlarge our common humanity
6. Connecting deeply with persons of other faiths with the hope of on-going friendships
7. Encouraging interfaith dialogue and understanding
8. Strengthening our various faith communities by working together in new ways

## CONFERENCE FEATURES

- Question Box
- small groups, panel discussions, plenary sessions
- exhibits and cultural performances
- individual networking
- notebook and resource materials
- worship and other devotional experiences
- identify and visit some Kansas City faith sites
- meals shared together
- quiet room for prayer, meditation, reflection

## Conference Schedule

### Oct 26 Friday Pre-Conference

- 3:00 Registration  
4:00 Exhibit space opens  
5:00 Open house for pre-registered people at hosting sites — *Learn about your neighbor's tradition*

### Oct 27 Saturday Daylight Savings Time

- 8:00 Registration 9:00 Plenary Session: *Greetings*  
9:10 Plenary Session: *Discovering Our Gifts*  
10:00 Plenary Session: *The Three Families of Faith*  
11:00 Workshops on Each Faith  
*Learn about your neighbor's tradition*  
noon Break — *Exhibit space open until 2 pm \**  
12:20 and 1:05 Lunch (two 45-minute seatings)  
12:20 and 1:05 Seminar (two 45-minute seatings)  
*The Gifts of Pluralism: Pitfalls and Prizes*  
2:00 Multifaith Panel on Environmental Issues  
2:45 *Appreciative Inquiry* 3:00 Break  
3:15 Multifaith Panel on Personal Issues \*  
4:00 *Appreciative Inquiry* 4:15 Break  
4:30 Multifaith Panel on Social Issues  
5:15 *Appreciative Inquiry* 5:30 Break

- 6:00 Dinner and Entertainment from sundry cultures \*  
8:15 Closing the Day with Rites from each tradition \*

### Oct 28 Sunday Central Standard Time

- 11:00 Interfaith worship 11:45 Break  
noon Networking Box Lunch \*  
1:05 Community Panel:  
*What is the role of religion in the community?*  
Business, government media, non-profit representatives  
2:00 Break  
2:15 Interfaith panel: *Next steps for us:*  
*How can we better relate to one another? \**  
3:30 Break  
3:45 *Appreciative Inquiry* —  
Tentative Conclusions: *What we have learned about ourselves, each other, and the Holy*  
4:45 Ending the Conference with a *Joint Declaration and Concluding Ceremony*

\*Zuhr 1:02 Saturday, 12:02 Sunday  
\*Asr 3:58 Saturday, 2:56 Sunday  
\*Maghrib Saturday 6:23, 'Isha' 7:38

## Conference Notes

The **LOGO** combines a vision of organic unity and diversity in the image of the tree with a single trunk, many roots and branches. The world map suggests our global context and the Kansas City logo “City of Fountains” in the shape of a heart superimposed on the tree calls us to our local diverse presences and work.

**APPRECIATIVE INQUIRY** is a way for one-on-one and small-group exchange to be most productive and positive. Using a list of questions, participants listen and ask and answer questions from

their own experiences to collect and celebrate the good news stories of a community — those stories that enhance cultural identity, spirit and vision. It is a co-operative search for the strengths, passions and life-giving forces that are found within every religious system. It involves an appreciation for the mystery of being and a reverence for life.

**THE CONFERENCE NOTEBOOK** includes descriptions of each faith, a religious calendar, and resource materials for metro Kansas City.