

Living Interfaith Support Network

Mission – To support, nourish, and help establish Living Interfaith communities in North America and around the world.

A Living Interfaith community may decide to call itself a Living Interfaith congregation, church, or sanctuary, or it may choose a different designation. It will be recognized as a Living Interfaith community if:

1. It commits to Interfaith as a faith that recognizes no hierarchy in humanity's spiritual traditions;
2. It recognizes that the fundamental calling of all our spiritual traditions is love, compassion, and community within the framework of equality and justice, all practiced with goodwill and mutual respect;
3. It looks to how we act, rather than what we proclaim; and
4. It actively seeks to foster a sharing of our diverse spiritual traditions, without any attempt to convert or convince people of diverse traditions of the “rightness” or “superiority” of any specific spiritual path.

Network Activities

Network support may take the form of providing a sample of a Living Interfaith congregation's bylaws, guidance in dealing with initial forms and documentation, guidance in forming Living Interfaith discussion groups, help with better understanding the faith of Interfaith by providing any or all of Steven Greenebaum's three Interfaith books or other books depending on determination of need. It may also involve giving limited financial aid to assist with Interfaith “start-up.”

Applicants for support will need to provide documentation regarding their interest in and support of the faith of Interfaith, and their understanding of Living Interfaith. The foundation may provide simple guidance if there is not an application for support but simply a query about the nature of the Network.

The Network will develop and provide practicable basic Interfaith materials for use by successful applicants. While the Network will be centered in the United States and Canada, it will be open to helping applicants worldwide.

Basic Business Plan for Beginning

The Network will have a Board of Directors consisting of a President (and CEO), Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and at least one Member at Large. For the first several years, the Board shall be drawn from the membership of the Living Interfaith Church in Lynnwood, WA, and the Living Interfaith Sanctuary in Vancouver, British Columbia. All Board members will serve as volunteers without monetary recompense.

It will be the purpose of the Board in these first years to develop effective means of providing the Network activities delineated above, including the tools that may be necessary to make these activities possible. The Board shall meet “as necessary,” but at least twice a year: once simply to stay abreast of needs, requests for aid, and a financial update; and a second time to affirm officers and financial statement and budget for the following year (as well as continue the activities of the biannual meeting).

Voting by the Board shall always be considered a “last resort” when consensus cannot be attained; but consensus shall always be the first choice and preferred mode of Board action. If a vote is deemed necessary, a majority of the Board shall be required for the vote to be deemed successful.

The Board may be enlarged as needed as deemed by consensus of the Board.

To begin with:

President, Steven Greenebaum

Vice President, Catherine Merchant

Treasurer, Christine Frizzell

Secretary, Patrick McKenna

Member at Large, Steve Crawford

It is possible that in time the Network will grow to the point where a volunteer President, supported by the Board, isn't sufficient. At such time, a part-time employee may be hired to handle the day-to-day work. But this is not anticipated at any time in the near future.