



# CENTER FOR GLOBAL JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

*International Reconciliation and Peacemaking Program  
Spring 2007*

*Washington National Cathedral's Center for Global Justice and Reconciliation is pleased to provide the following summary report of its International Reconciliation and Peacemaking (IRP) initiatives. The mission of the IRP program is to reduce international conflict and promote peace and reconciliation by: actively engaging in inter-religious dialogue and interfaith relationship building; participating in informal diplomacy; and promoting respectful engagement between estranged parties. As called for in the Cathedral's Strategic Vision, the IRP program is engaged in reconciliation and peacemaking efforts in many parts of the world.*

## Interfaith and Inter-Religious Dialogue



Today, when the global family is so divided, Washington National Cathedral is committed to using its convening power to promote inter-religious reconciliation. The Cathedral has long been a safe place for people of all faiths to gather and engage in dialogue with those from different backgrounds. Increasingly, Jewish and Muslim scholars have been active in the Cathedral's life, and a strong partnership with the followers of the three Abrahamic faiths is an important component of the Cathedral's mission. The Cathedral has been a leader in interfaith relations for decades and in 2003 established the Abrahamic Roundtable, a gather-

ing of Christian, Jewish, and Muslim leaders who come together to dialogue on religious tolerance and understanding. CGJR recognizes the importance of moving its partnerships beyond dialogue into action to strengthen and heal relationships and actively engages in conversations with local, national, and international Muslim leaders to discuss the ways in which the Cathedral can be useful in changing the public's negative perceptions of Muslims. CGJR continues to build on the works of the Abrahamic Roundtable to facilitate discussions and build lasting relationships between Christians, Jews, and Muslims.

## United States-Iran Relations

Through CGJR's work, the Cathedral has played an important role in US-Iran relations. On September 7, 2006, the Cathedral hosted the fifth President of Iran, Mohammad Khatami (pictured on page one), who delivered an address on the role that the three Abrahamic faiths play in shaping peace. A delegation comprised of staff from CGJR and the Convocation of American Churches in Europe later visited Iran in December 2006 and met with Iranian religious leaders to engage further in inter-religious dialogue and relationship building. CGJR continues to explore ways to partner with the people of Iran to strengthen relations and promote peace between peoples of our two great faiths and nations.

## Justice and Reconciliation in the Holy Land

The Holy Land continues to be a region of strife and discord for people of all faiths, and CGJR supports non-violent efforts to resolve conflict in this troubled part of the world. The Reverend Canon John L. Peterson, Director of the Center for Global Justice and Reconciliation, has significant experience with conflict resolution in the Middle East and continues his work in concert with resolutions of the Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion. In Summer 2006, CGJR launched the Palestinian Christians Initiative (PCI). The purpose of this program is for Center staff



*The Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem is a site that is sacred to followers of all the Abrahamic faiths.*

to obtain and disseminate information concerning the plight of Christians in Palestine and present their findings to the public and those in leadership positions. In September 2006, IRP staff traveled to Jerusalem and met with Bishops in the Anglican, Catholic, and Lutheran churches to introduce this new initiative and coordinate efforts to support peace in the region. Staff from the Center continue working to raise awareness with lawmakers and the general public to help shed light on the unfavorable conditions and restrictions imposed on Christians living in Palestine today.

## HIV/AIDS in Southern Africa

The Diocese of Washington and CGJR share a special relationship with the Diocese of the Highveld in Southern Africa. In 2002, the Right Reverend John Bryson Chane, the Bishop of Washington, established a companion relationship between the Diocese and the Churches of the Province of Southern Africa, which include the countries of South Africa, Swaziland, Lesotho, Mozambique, Angola, and Namibia.

In September 2006, a CGJR delegation accompanied Bishop Chane to South Africa and Swaziland to visit home-based care and development projects in various townships that have been ravaged by HIV/AIDS. The delegation returned with a renewed commitment to supporting the efforts of the Anglican Church in Southern Africa and has engaged the assistance of the Southern

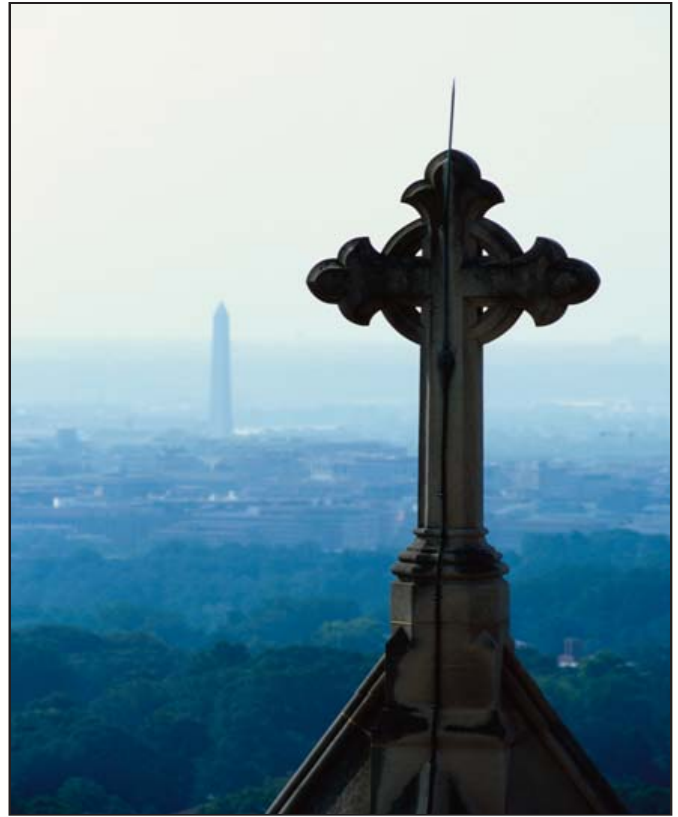
Africa Partnership Committee to more fully support diocesan projects in the Highveld.

The Center is also supportive of faith-based organizations (FBOs) in the region that provide care and treatment to those living with HIV/AIDS. In February 2007, CGJR co-sponsored a conference with World Health Organization (WHO) to discuss research findings that quantify the role that faith-based organizations play in the fight against HIV/AIDS in Africa. A study commissioned by WHO showed that between 30 and 70 percent of all HIV/AIDS care in Africa is provided by faith-based organizations. Representatives from WHO and the Cathedral urged greater collaboration between FBOs and the public health sector in fighting this deadly disease and presented plans for further mapping in four more African countries.

## Upcoming Projects

Future plans for the International Reconciliation and Peacemaking program include:

- Establishing an International Affairs Advisory Group which will assist the Center in its interfaith and informal diplomacy initiatives.
- Exploring ways to partner with staff from President Khatami's Institute for Dialogue Among Civilizations and Cultures in Tehran and Geneva.
- Coordinating with staff from the Holy Land Christian Society to raise awareness with members of Congress on the challenges and struggles faced by Christians in Palestine.
- Working closely with the Diocese of the Highveld and the Churches in Southern Africa to secure funding for diocesan-based HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment programs.



## About the Cathedral's Center for Global Justice and Reconciliation



*The Reverend Canon John L. Peterson, CGJR Director, holds a toddler at a crèche for AIDS orphans in South Africa.*

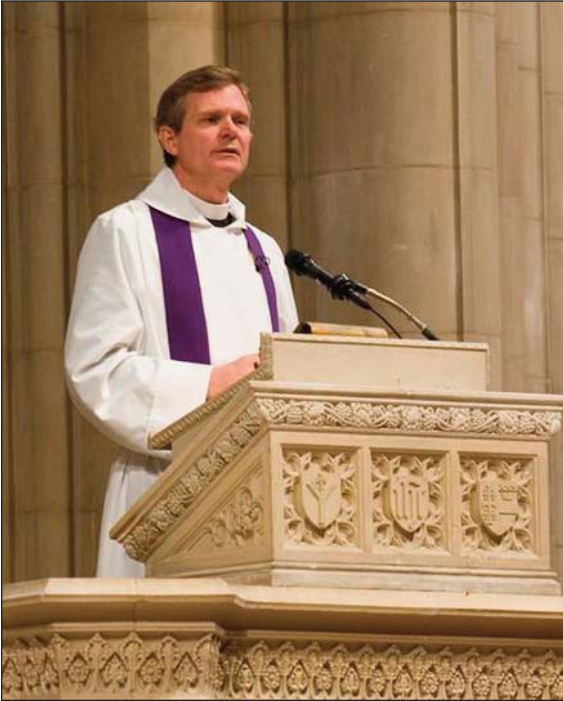
The Cathedral's Center for Global Justice and Reconciliation (CGJR), a program of the Cathedral College, is the Cathedral's platform for its international mission. It amplifies *the voice* of the Cathedral on global justice and reconciliation in domestic and international arenas. It deploys the convening power of the Cathedral as *a place* of reconciliation and interfaith collaboration. It works to address the needs of *people* who are poor and oppressed.

The Center's leadership includes the Reverend Canon John L. Peterson, Director; Evan Anderson, Deputy Director for the Center's International Reconciliation and Peacemaking Program; Jean F. Duff, Managing Director; Mary Pat Brennan, Women's Program Coordinator; and Katherine Wilkins, Administrative Assistant.

The Center is currently organized into two major programs: Global Justice and Global Poverty programs and International Reconciliation and Peacemaking programs. In its Global Justice and Global Poverty program, CGJR works ecumenically and through interfaith networking to promote collaboration among faith communities and development NGOs in numerous projects. Framed by the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the program's priorities include women's empowerment and leveraging malaria control and prevention. CGJR's IRP program seeks to reduce international conflict and promote peace and reconciliation by engaging in inter-religious dialogue and interfaith relationship building; participating in informal diplomacy; and promoting respectful engagement between estranged parties.

**For more information on CGJR's International Reconciliation and Peacemaking Program, please contact Evan Anderson, Deputy Director, at (202) 537-2357 or [eanderson@cathedral.org](mailto:eanderson@cathedral.org)**

## About Washington National Cathedral



*The Very Rev. Samuel T. Lloyd III, Dean*

Washington National Cathedral's doors are open to people of all faiths. Celebrating 100 years of service to the nation and the world, the Cathedral is fulfilling its mission as a national church, where people of all religions come together to celebrate events that shape the nation, mourn the passing of world leaders and confront the pressing moral and social issues of the day. Under the leadership of the Very Reverend Samuel T. Lloyd III, Dean, Washington National Cathedral is uniquely poised to serve as a spiritual beacon of hope for reconciliation in the nation and world. The Cathedral's coming decades will celebrate not only a great and holy building, but a Voice—of generous-spirited Christianity; a Place—of reconciliation and healing; and a People—serving Christ and working for justice among the broken and hurting of our world.

For more information about the Cathedral or its programs, please visit [www.nationalcathedral.org](http://www.nationalcathedral.org)



## CENTER FOR GLOBAL JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

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