

PRINCIPLES OF THE HOUSE OF PEACE

The House of Peace adopts the following principles as a statement of its intention and earnest work in the world:

1. The House of Peace is committed to the ideals and methods of social therapy and healing community as given by Rudolf Steiner and developed worldwide in communities devoted in daily life and service to those in need of many kinds of special care. To seek inner freedom in the world of spiritual ideas while confronting humanity's struggle for freedom in the world of human rights is the aim of this community. For this spiritual/cultural freedom and social equality, a true expression of companionship in the realm of economic experience through a wage-free, profit-free way of life is given.

2. The House of Peace, recognizing the task within the sphere of intellectual and spiritual seeking, inaugurates the Etty Hillesum Seminar: Courses of study, lectures, retreats, a library, and musical offerings devoted to those who would seek a deeper understanding of and clearer role within world issues and concerns. The principles of Anthroposophy are fundamental to these activities and are to be reflected in the endeavors of the Community.

3. The diverse religious and cultural traditions of the members and guests of the House of Peace are the foundation for its social and economic life. A special focus of this is seen in the evolving relationship between Buddhism and Christianity.

4. In undertaking life together, the House of Peace endeavors to reflect that "higher form of community, founded in the freedom of love among brothers and sisters, as a breath of magic that we breathe in our groups..." This ideal for social life shall find its daily work in the full measure of sharing in the poverty and gifts of those who seek this healing, be they refugee or soldier, intellectually able or disabled, child or adult.

5. The House of Peace intends to confront the suffering of the earth and its displaced peoples with a thought of the heart manifested in community life where some of the givers of healing are themselves bearing mental and physical handicaps. In this effort we turn to the wisdom of anthroposophically oriented social therapy and to the work of a leader in that field, Dr. Karl Konig. (1902-1966):

We have only to grasp the idea of curative work in a sufficiently comprehensive way to become aware of its true vocation... Healing community wants to become a worldwide activity and helpfully confront the threat to the individual person. This attitude must express itself in every social service:

in the care of souls...

in the guidance of orphans and refugees...

and in aid for the underdeveloped, by a worldwide peace corps and other similar endeavors.

It is the only answer we can offer today...

inasmuch as we still want to be human beings...

to mankind dancing at the abyss.

6. The House of Peace finds itself as a microcosm for world service in union with a vast web of inter-related people who would transform the anguish of war into the substance for peace. Communication on many levels is essential to this sense of solidarity and support upon whose foundation the essential structures of the next century are to be created.

7. The House of Peace finds its hope and responsibility in the ideal: "Community above us; Christ in us." The unique and free individuality of each one shall be cherished even as each one's burden of pain and suffering shall be shared, all within the recognition that a spiritual knowledge and community must pervade the world.

The summation of these principles of the House of Peace, which attempt to express thoughts that stream from head to heart, closes with words of Karl Konig.

Only help from person to person -
the meeting from Ego to Ego -
the becoming aware of the other's individuality
without inquiring into his confession,
world-concept, or affiliation -
but simply the meeting of two individualities
eye to eye,
will create that healing community
which can stand up to the threat against
the inner existence of the human being.
This will be effective however
only if one takes into consideration
a fundamental knowledge
derived from the heart.