

9TH ANNUAL INTERFAITH BANQUET

Presented by



CENTER FOR
INTERFAITH
COOPERATION

Sunday, March 19th, 2023



Honoring

REVEREND JERRY ZEHR

As the 2023 Interfaith
Ambassador of the Year

WELCOME TO THE 9TH ANNUAL INTERFAITH BANQUET

**Honoring Reverend Jerry Zehr
As the 2023 Interfaith Ambassador of the Year**

OUR VISION

A community that pursues peace through interfaith understanding and cooperation.

OUR MISSION

Center for Interfaith Cooperation provides safe environments, resources, and opportunities for service to increase religious literacy, build empathy between faiths, and facilitate interfaith encounters.

INTERFAITH BANQUET STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dan McFeely, Dennis Sasso, JR Sandadi, Muzaffar Ahmad, Deborah Saxon, Conner Bomar, Jennifer Neer, Josih Hostetler, David Love, Charlie Wiles, Jerry Zehr

Dear Faith community,

Welcome to the Center for Interfaith Cooperation (CIC) Interfaith Banquet 2023. It is our honor to meet today to recognize a man of peace, an ambassador of peace, a voice of reconciliation. Someone who has always been the voice of wisdom in chaos, and a light guidance in the darkness of ignorance, the 2023 CIC Interfaith Ambassador Jerry Zehr.



Our nation and the world are facing serious challenges, some of which are the issues of gun violence on our streets and even in our schools and houses of worship, the places that are supposed to be the safest. The illegal drug crisis that is impacted the most vulnerable and deprived communities, mental health crisis leading to rising suicide, and political polarization that has increasingly alienating the other for simply expressing a different opinion or view on issues that we should have civilized conversation about. Although this looks like painting the world with darkness, these are realities that people are actually living. However, without darkness, we would not have known the blessing of light. And Our light in these situations is our respective faith traditions, and the heroes are the faith leaders who are guiding us towards hope with an inspiring message that it does not matter how dark it is, the sun will rise, and it will rise even brighter. We may stumble or even fall, but we will get up together, dust ourselves off, and keep walking. We will remain hopeful because we still have champions of hope, like Ambassador Jerry, amongst us.

In a world where peaceful coexistence and accepting those who are different from us have become increasingly a rare commodity, a safe and civilized place, such as CIC, is much needed. CIC is where people from different faith, national origins, and walks of life meet and celebrate their differences just as they celebrate their commonalities. CIC has been investing sustainably in all generations from faith leaders and community pioneers to our future generations and young leaders, investing in different fields from faith to health to social justice causes, bringing people with different views and having conversations about difficult topics in civil manner, and training different organizations about Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion to create a better work environment.

We are inviting you to be part of this noble cause that will lead us towards a more hopeful and brighter future, so we can leave this world in better shape than the one we found it in, so our future generations can enjoy a safer and more peaceful life, cleaner environment and better climate, and a more prosperous and just world. God says in the Quran: "And let there be [arising] from you a nation inviting to all that is good, enjoining what is right and forbidding what is wrong, and those will be the successful ones." Quran 3:104

Thank you for your continuous and unwavering support.

Sincerely,

Ahmed Alamine

Ahmed Alamine, Chair
Center for Interfaith Cooperation



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THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SPONSORS

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and Dialogue, Inc.
IU Health Congregational Care Network

Special Thanks to Gregory Shufeldt,
Judge David Shaheed, and Matt Williams



MOCKTAIL

Raspberry Mint Mojito - fresh raspberries, cane sugar, sprigs of mint



SALAD

Local greens, white cheddar, Granny Smith Matchstick Apples, Pickled Radish, Sea Salt Sunflower Seeds, served with an Apple Chive Dressing and Petit French Baguettes with Butter



ENTREE

Butternut Squash Steak with Pesto Cream served with Asparagus with Roasted Roma Tomatoes and Farro Pilaf



DESSERT

Choice of Mini Sugar Cream Pies, Lemon Bars, and Salted Caramel Brownies

PROGRAM

Music - The Good Earth Band

Welcome - Charlie Wiles & Dan Spehler

Mayor's Proclamation - Joe Hogsett

Interfaith Blessing - Reverend Terri Hord Owens, Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

Dinner Served

Entertainment - Gregory Hancock Dance Theatre

Mayoral Welcome - James Brainard

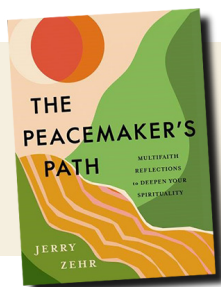
Video Tribute

Award Presentation - Imam Ahmed Alamine CIC Board Chair

Music - "Be Kind", Lori Crouter & The Good Earth Band

Closing Benediction - JR Sandadi, CIC Board Vice Chair

Music - "We are Family", The Good Earth Band



Please be sure to grab Jerry's book *The Peacemaker's Path*, your program, and thank you gifts as you leave the dining room. Jerry will be available in the lobby after the ceremony for anyone who would like to have their copy of *The Peacemaker's Path* signed.

SPECIAL GUESTS



Dan Spehler

Dan Spehler serves as evening news anchor for FOX59 News Live at Five, FOX59 News at Six and FOX59 News at Ten, while also reporting on state & government issues across Indiana.

Dan also hosts IN Focus, an Emmy-award winning political news/issues program which airs every Sunday morning on FOX59 and CBS4. He also serves as President of the Central Great Lakes chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, and enjoys taking part in various community services initiatives across Indiana.

A native Midwesterner, Dan has enjoyed working close to home through the years, covering news in Indiana & Ohio throughout his 20-year career in television. Spehler comes to FOX59 from WKRC-TV in Cincinnati, and also worked for several years at WRTV in Indianapolis.

Originally from Ohio, Dan is a graduate of Bowling Green State University, and has also worked at television stations in Toledo and Dayton, before first moving to Indianapolis in 2005. Proud parents of two amazing little kids, Dan and his wife Kristi are proud to call Central Indiana home – they met here in Indy and got married here in 2010.



Rev. Terri Hord Owens

Rev. Teresa “Terri” Hord Owens is the General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. She is the first person of color and second woman to lead the denomination. Since her election in 2017, Rev. Hord Owens’ ministry actively reflects the Disciples’ priority of being an anti-racist church, being a movement for wholeness, welcoming all to the Lord’s table as God has welcomed us. Her exhortation to the church is “Let’s be the church we say we are. It is in being who we say we are that we actively bear witness to God’s limitless love for all.”

In addition to collaborative service with the ministries that comprise

Disciples Justice Ministries, she has been active in leadership in the Poor People's Campaign, and other ecumenical and interfaith collaboratives, including the Faith Table. In keeping with the Disciples' historic commitment to Christian unity, she serves in leadership at the National Council of Churches as the Treasurer of the Governing Board and a member of the World Council of Churches Central Committee.

A descendant of one of the oldest African-American free settlements in Indiana and a Disciple since young adulthood, Rev. Hord Owens earned her bachelor's degree in Government with a minor in Afro- American Studies from Harvard University. Hord Owens' resume includes more than 20 years in corporate America leading diverse teams in data management in health care and other industries before she entered seminary.

An active lay leader throughout her youth and adult life, Terri has worked with children and youth ministries, taught Sunday School and Bible study in Christian Education departments, and worked to create drama ministries in several congregations. Despite professional success, she felt God had another assignment, and she accepted her call to ministry under the pastorate of Dr. T. Garrott Benjamin, Jr. at Light of the World Christian Church, Indianapolis, IN. A graduate of University of Chicago Divinity School, Rev. Hord Owens served 15 years as the Dean of Students at her alma matter. Rev. Hord Owens also served as the pastor of First Christian Church of Downers Grove, Illinois, where under her leadership, FCCDG is now an open and affirming, anti-racism, pro-reconciliation congregation. During her pastorate FCCDG nests an independent Hispanic congregation, Fe Y Esperanza, with whom they share in a variety of ministries throughout the year.

Hord Owens is widely sought after as a preacher, speaker and workshop facilitator. Her ministry and intellectual interests include a theology of reconciliation, cultural intelligence, developing inclusive and multi-cultural congregations, and the mentoring of young adults.

Rev. Hord Owens is married to Walter Owens, Jr., and are the proud parents of an adult son, W. Mitchell Owens, III and daughter-in-law Adri Owens and a joyful new grandmother to Zachary.

MUSICAL GUESTS



The Good Earth Band rocks the Garden Community Church every Sunday morning, raising spirits of all through eclectic song covers like the Beatles' "Love, Love, Love"; Sister Sledge's "We are Family"; and Taylor Swift's "Shake it Off". Under the direction of Rhonda Baker, the talented ensemble differentiates itself from typical church bands with its emphasis on popular secular songs chosen to support the theme of each

Sunday's message. The band features Indianapolis favorites Michael Read (Roadmaster) on keyboards and Michael Clark (Bob and Tom, The Wright Brothers) on guitar, joined each week by other notable vocalists and musicians.

<https://www.thegardenonline.org/>



Lori Crouter sings as a proud member of Sweet Adelines International with Lustre Quartet - 2018 International Quartet Champions and Harbor City Music Company Show Chorus. Lori Crouter is thankful for Jerry encouraging her greatly years ago as he helped to record her first tape!



GREGORY HANCOCK DANCE THEATRE

Gregory Hancock Dance Theatre (GHDT) is a professional contemporary dance company that performs in a wide variety of styles combining modern dance, classical and contemporary ballet, theatre, and cultural dance forms to create a unique style of movement with an emphasis on theatrical storytelling. GHDT has created a large repertoire ranging from small pieces to fulllength ballets that are rich in contrasts and appealing to a broad-based and eclectic audience.

GHDT is committed to creating dances dealing with relevant social, cultural, historical, and spiritual themes.

GHDT was established in 1997 as a professional company and opened its permanent rehearsal space and Academy in 2009, which is now also the home of The Florence, a black box theatre performance space. The company maintains a pre-professional student company, G2, for young aspiring dancers. GHDT is the resident professional dance company at The Center for Performing Arts in Carmel, Indiana.



STATE OF INDIANA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
State House, Second Floor
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Eric J. Holcomb
Governor

Welcome,

On behalf of the State of Indiana, I am pleased to welcome you to the 2023 Interfaith Banquet. Congratulations to the Center for Interfaith Cooperation on hosting this event!

Our state is proud to be home to many religious institutions. People of all faiths in Indiana and across this country represent the very best of what it means to be faithful Americans. I have the sincere hope that this event can further strengthen the bonds between Hoosiers of all faiths.

Tonight, we have a chance to recognize the 2023 Interfaith Ambassador of the Year. Reverend Jerry Zehr has played a vital role in our state. Reverend Zehr has served as a pastor and leader in interfaith ministries for over 30 years. He has inspired Hoosiers through his leadership in building interfaith communities in Indiana, including the Carmel Interfaith Alliance and the Indiana Multifaith Network. Additionally, Reverend Zehr has engaged with the community by dedicating time to lead several workshops and retreats. His commitment to Hoosiers of different faiths encourages constructive dialogue and empowers our communities.

I wish you all the best for a successful event tonight and for your mission of taking our state to the Next Level by promoting faith and friendship in our community.

Sincerely,

Eric Holcomb

TODD YOUNG
INDIANA



United States Senate
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

March 19, 2023

Reverend Jerry Zehr
1100 West 42nd, Street, Suite 125
Indianapolis, Indiana 46208

Reverend Zehr,

I want to congratulate you on being named the 2023 Interfaith Ambassador of the Year!

Over the last thirty years, your involvement in interfaith ministries has made a tremendous impact on our state and its citizens. Through your work, you have counseled, encouraged, and supported a countless number of Hoosiers. Thank you for your ministry and genuine love of people.

Your work stands as an example and will inspire countless others across the nation to positively engage in their communities.

Your friend in service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "T. Young", written in a cursive style.

Todd Young
United States Senator



CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION

for
Reverend Jerry Zehr

Congratulations on your recognition as the Center for Interfaith Cooperation's 2023 Interfaith Ambassador of the Year. For over three decades, you have led interfaith dialogue and action including the founding of multifaith local and state-wide networks. Your efforts to build mutual respect across faith traditions are greatly needed, and I am grateful for your commitment to collaborate in service to others. You leave an indelible mark in our community, and I am pleased to celebrate your service.

This Congressional Recognition is rendered on behalf of the 7th Congressional District in Indiana this 19th day of March 2023.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "AC", is positioned above the name André Carson.

André Carson
Member of Congress



March 19, 2023

Greetings!

On behalf of the City of Indianapolis, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 9th Annual Interfaith Banquet hosted by the Center for Interfaith Cooperation.

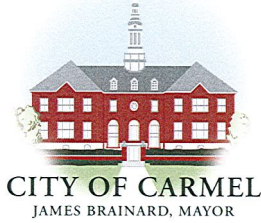
This celebration of religious diversity is an opportunity for Hoosiers from across the spectrum of spiritual beliefs and faith backgrounds to share in fellowship and entertainment. The Center for Interfaith Cooperation's mission is to provide safe environments, resources, and opportunities for service to increase religious literacy and build empathy between faiths. Building connections and creating interfaith networks are vital for the success of Indianapolis—after all, our city is only made stronger when we celebrate our differences.

Tonight, it is my distinct honor to congratulate Reverend Jerry Zehr as the 2023 Interfaith Ambassador of the Year. Rev. Zehr's leadership and pioneering spirit have brought together countless people of different faith backgrounds around Central Indiana, strengthening our community bonds and creating a more vibrant cultural fabric. His continued commitment to nurturing interfaith relationships through the Indiana Multifaith Network as well as publishing his extraordinary book, *The Peacemakers Path*, exemplifies how we create a better future—together.

I wish attendees, honorees, and special guests all the best for an enjoyable evening. Thank you for continuing to promote Indy's interfaith community.

Sincerely,

Joe Hogsett
Mayor
City of Indianapolis



March 2023

Rev. Jerry Zehr
Center for Interfaith Cooperation
1100 W. 42nd Street, Suite 125
Indianapolis, IN 46208

Dear Jerry:

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate you on the distinction of being named the Center for Interfaith Cooperation's "Interfaith Ambassador of the Year" – an honor that is fitting and a testament to your dedication of helping to build a thoughtful and welcoming community.

It is a privilege to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to their community with selfless devotion. The citizens of Carmel join with me in sending hearty congratulations and best wishes as you enjoy the many accolades you will undoubtedly receive for the well-deserved honor.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Brainard", written in a cursive style.

James Brainard
Mayor



In Loving Memory

For his visionary and
pioneering spirit
building the
foundation for
interfaith relations
in Central Indiana.

Dr. Shahid Athar, 1945-2018



Bill Foley

www.billfoley.com



Freddie Kelvin

freddiesfotosforever.com

Thank You

2023 Interfaith Banquet Official Photographers



Ascension St. Vincent

Congratulations to Reverend Jerry Zehr
on being named Interfaith Ambassador of
the Year for 2023!

This is a great honor and very well-
deserved.

We are very grateful for your dedication
to interfaith work and the impact in our
community. The commitment you have
shown to bringing our community
together has been outstanding.

Thank you
and congratulations!



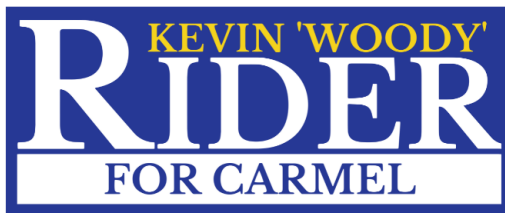
Congratulations, Jerry Zehr!

~ Don Knebel



Congratulations to Rev. Jerry Zehr for being honored as Ambassador of the Year.

Your more than 35 years of interfaith
work and service to the community is
an inspiration. Congratulations, and
thank you!





All of us at the Hindu Temple of Central Indiana want to congratulate Jerry Zehr for being named the 2023 Interfaith Ambassador of the Year! We are proud of you and recognize the interfaith work and community service you have been engaged in for years.

OM Shanti, Shanti, Shanti!



CONGRATULATIONS TO JERRY ZEHR

2023 INTERFAITH AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR



Thank you, Jerry, for doing your part to change the world by building solid relationships among leaders of many different faith traditions. For decades your leadership, wisdom and hard work has brought healing to our community, state, nation, and world. We at St. Luke's United Methodist Church are honored to work beside you.



St. Luke's
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
— OPEN FOR YOU —


CONGRATULATIONS
TO OUR
FRIEND & COLLEAGUE

JERRY ZEHR

2023
INTERFAITH AMBASSADOR
OF THE YEAR



RABBIS DENNIS & SANDY SASSO
CONGREGATION BETH-EL ZEDECK



“Rev. Zehr led congregational efforts that have made possible many specific projects in the rebuilding of Bosnia after the war in 1995, including supplying tractors, orchards of fruit trees, and \$50,000 of seed money for micro-credit loans.”

WITH GRATITUDE

Jerry Zehr
2023 Interfaith
Ambassador
of the Year

CTS Class of 1985, MDiv



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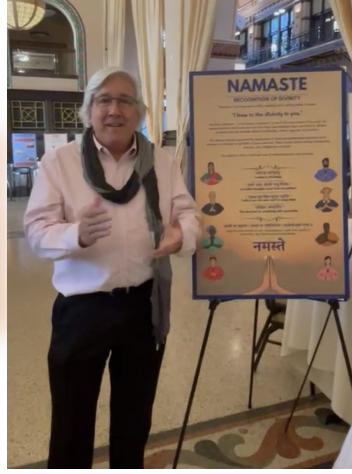
**Congratulations,
Jerry Zehr,
2023 Interfaith
Ambassador of the Year**



Congratulations to our beloved friend, Reverend Jerry Zehr, 2023 Interfaith Ambassador of the Year

For service, leadership, and advancing the vision and mission of the Center for Interfaith Cooperation.

With Love and Blessings,
K.P. Singh and Family



Congratulatory Text:

The Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh, USA extends its warmest congratulations to Rev. Jerry Zehr on being honored with the Interfaith Ambassador of the Year award from the Center for Interfaith Cooperation. Rev. Jerry's tireless efforts to bring the diverse faith communities in Greater Indianapolis together have led to increased unity and appreciation for one another's beliefs and cultures. We applaud Jerry's dedication to fostering interfaith understanding, empathy, and love. The HSS wholeheartedly supports Jerry's vision of embracing diversity and finding common ground as we strive towards a better future for all Indiana residents.

Unifying Prayer from Rig Veda (~1200 BCE)

<p>संगच्छध्वं संवदध्वं सं वो मनांसि जानताम् देवा भागं यथा पूर्वे सज्जानाना उपासते ॥</p> <p>समानो मन्त्रः समितिः समानी समानं मनः सहचित्तमेषाम् समानं मन्त्रमभिमन्त्रये वः समानेन वो हविषा जुहोमि ॥</p> <p>समानी व आकूतिः समाना हृदयानि वः । समानमस्तु वो मनो यथा वः सुसहासति ॥</p>	<p>saṃgacchadhwaṃ saṃvadadhwaṃ saṃ vo manāṃsi jānatām devā bhāgaṃ yathā pūrve sañjānānā upāsate</p> <p>samāno mantraḥ samitiḥ samānī samānaṃ manaḥ sahicittameṣām samānaṃ mantramabhimantraye vaḥ samānena vo haviṣā juhomi</p> <p>samanī va ākūtiḥ samānā hṛdayāni vaḥ samānamastu vo mano yathā vaḥ susahāsati</p>
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Congratulations to Rev. Jerry Zehr CIC Interfaith Ambassador 2023

**I have so enjoyed working alongside you during
the meet your neighbors series and in
conversations at your church in Carmel!**

**I wish you and Diane all the best. Your work in
bringing interfaith understanding will be a great
legacy for Indiana. I hope we will continue to care
for Carmel and Indiana together.**

Dr. Anita Joshi



**Strengthening Healthy
Support Networks in
Minoritized Communities**



Foundation





Congratulations

to **JERRY ZEHR** on the **2023
Interfaith Ambassador Award**
from the Center for
Interfaith Cooperation

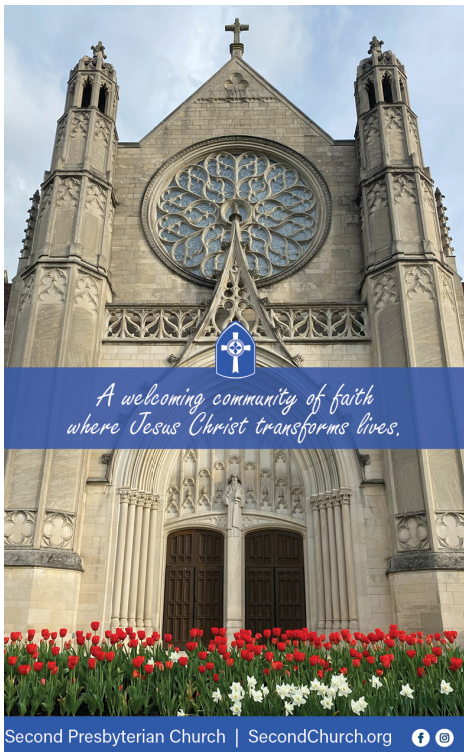


Carmel.IN.gov

Pastor **Jerry Zehr** has been a positive voice in Carmel and Central Indiana for a goal that I share along with many of our residents: To bring faith leaders, from different traditions and backgrounds, together in order to explore common issues among all human beings. Jerry was pastor of **Carmel Christian Church** when he and I invited leaders from the faith communities in our city to a breakfast. On October 28, 2015, we had representation from the Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, Mormon, Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox and Protestant faith communities. Thanks in large part to Jerry, there has been a great spirit of cooperation and desire to find ways to work together for the betterment of our city and world.

Jim Brainard

Mayor Jim Brainard



*A welcoming community of faith
where Jesus Christ transforms lives.*

Second Presbyterian Church | SecondChurch.org



Archbishop Charles C. Thompson, the Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs and the Indiana Catholic Conference congratulate Jerry Zehr, recipient of the 2023 Ambassador of the Year Award!

May the God and Creator of all people bless you for your 35 years of promoting, wherever you have ministered, the value of interfaith cooperation. Your years of gathering people of many faiths to sit down together, learn about each other, and appreciate the uniqueness each brings to the world are exceptional examples of being an "ambassador".

May many people of faith find in you reason for hope that we can and will live together, care for each other, and honor God's spirit in each other.

Congratulations to
Revered Jerry Zehr
2023 Interfaith
Ambassador of the Year!

Judge Charles A. Wiles
and
Charlie & Sachiko Wiles

Members, Organizations, and
Synagogues of the Greater
Indianapolis Jewish Community
Congratulate

REVEREND
JERRY ZEHR

2023 Interfaith
Ambassador of the Year

Thank you for making Indianapolis
an inclusive community that is
accepting of all faiths.



INDIANAPOLIS
HEBREW CONGREGATION



INDIANAPOLIS
JCRC
JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL



CONGREGATION
BETH SHALOM



Congregation
Shaarey Tefilla

ETV CHAIM
SEPHARDIC
CONGREGATION

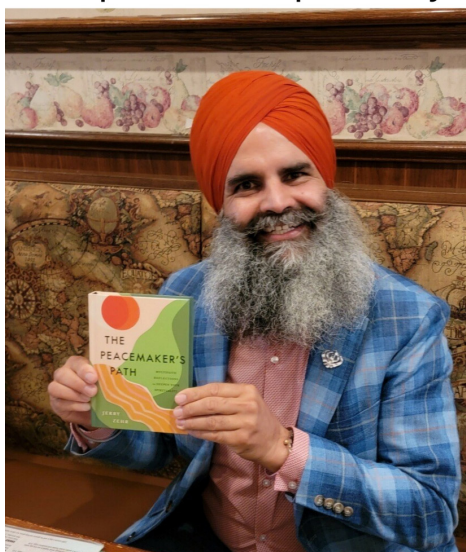
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Our work extends beyond the medicines we create. Together, we're working to improve health and access to life-saving medicines in our local communities and round the globe. Through partnerships and our signature volunteer programs, we aim to identify and promote successful solutions to health issues that can be scaled and replicated to make life better for people here at home and around the world.

Learn more about our commitment
to local communities and people
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Lilly

The Peacemaker's Path: Multifaith Reflections to Deepen Your Spirituality



Congratulations *Rev. Jerry Zehr*

Congratulations to Rev. Jerry Zehr, a Disciples of Christ pastor, for being named the 2023 Interfaith Ambassador of the Year at the Annual Interfaith Banquet. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is delighted to celebrate this recognition with the Center for Interfaith Cooperation. As a church that is committed to promoting unity among all people, we are proud of Rev. Zehr's ongoing efforts to collaborate with members of different faiths, and we are grateful that his work has been acknowledged and appreciated by our interfaith partners in Indiana.



Family Federation for World Peace and Unification

Congratulates Jerry Zehr



"We are One Family Under God"

Father and Mother Moon encourage all
to live in peace as one family.

Jack and Kyoko Harford

jharford.indy@gmail.com – 317.362.7820



**INDIANAPOLIS MUSLIM
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

**Congratulations, 2023 CIC
Interfaith Ambassador,
Jerry Zehr.**

**You have lots of good, and you
deserve all good.**

**"Is the reward for doing good but
good?" Quran 55:60.**

IPCOD

**Indiana Pagan Community
Outreach and Dialogue, Inc.**



**Congratulations to Jerry
Zehr, 2023 Interfaith
Ambassador of the Year.**



IU Health Congregational Care Network

Recognizing your
accomplishments,
and all they've
meant to our
community.



Visit us at www.pnc.com



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Ek Onkar
(God is One)



*Seva karat hoai
nahkamee
Thiss ko hoth paraapath
suaamee
"...Those who serve
humanity
with no ulterior motives,
Simply in the love of God,
They shall obtain union
with the Lord..."*

***Congratulations to
Jerry Zehr !!!***

**Sikh Satsang of Indianapolis
Sikh Educational & Cultural Society
10950 Southeastern Avenue
Indianapolis IN 46239
Email: SikhSatsangofIndy@gmail.com
www.GurdwaraSikhSatsang.org**

**Jerry, Congratulations on your
well-deserved recognition as the
Interfaith Ambassador of the Year!
Thank you for inspiring our community
on *The Peacemaker's Path*.**



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KlapperPlasticSurgery.com



SAVE THE DATE

FESTIVAL OF 2023 FAITHS

September 10, 2023
University Park
Downtown Indianapolis



CENTER FOR INTERFAITH COOPERATION

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