



## Report of Proceedings of A Community Dialogue

# “Mapping a Culture of Peace in Ft.Myers/Naples”

Sunday, November 20, 2005  
Clarion Hotel, Ft. Myers, Florida

Note: This report consists of a total of 13 pages and includes:

**(A) Transcripts of the Morning Process including:**

- **Session #1 (Table Dialogue): *What would a Culture of Peace look like?***
- **Session #2 (Table Dialogue): *Organizational Infrastructure of an Emerging Culture of Peace in Lee and Collier Counties;***
- **Session #3 (Large Group): *Brainstorm on the Vision for the FCPJ Land;***
- **Session #4 (Large Group): *Talking Stick Closing Activity***

**(B) Statistical Overview of Outreach to Convene the Dialogue**

**(C) Participants' Profile:** Select demographics and background information about the participants, based on *pre-dialogue survey* of those who pre-registered;

**(D) Evaluation Data:** Select portions of the evaluation instrument. Open-ended responses and data regarding operational aspects of FCPJ are not included here.

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### **Two Events of NOTE:**

**June 2-4, 2006: FCPJ STATE CONVOCATION:** *Weaving a Culture of Peace*; Paramount Plaza Hotel, Gainesville Florida; Mark your calendar now. See <http://fcpj.org/> for more info as it becomes available by late January. Plan to join with 200-300 progressive Floridians involved in diverse threads of the “Culture of Peace” agenda for a full weekend of learning, strategizing, and community building; Keynote Speakers, Best Practice Seminars, Action Campaigns, Celebrations and more.

**Feb. 11-12, 2006: FCPJ Annual Planning Retreat:** At the *Teaching Farm*, Graham, Florida; This is a smaller gathering, generally not more than 40-50, and will address organizational and strategic planning to guide the future development of the FCPJ. Advance Registration REQUIRED by February 1<sup>st</sup>. In advance of their arrival to the Planning Retreat, registrants will be provided an overview of the planning agenda and a substantive report that summarizes findings of 6 Community Dialogues convened during 2005, including data from the focus groups that followed the community dialogues, as well as a fuller accounting of post-dialogue evaluation survey data. For more information, see January (Winter) issue of *Just Peace* (quarterly newsletter of FCPJ).

## Table Dialogue #1:

### ***What would a Culture of Peace (CoP) look like?***

#### **Table 1**

- A CoP must start with the individual; Live as you think, how you truly feel; live according to deeply rooted personal values; those values are rooted in a spiritual base of love and acceptance instead of fear; we need to establish this in ourselves to be a catalyst in all people;
- A CoP would look like a village in Africa – where you can recognize the community by the love that is experienced between the men, women and children without all the commercialization and stimulation in this culture;
- A Catholic Worker House illustrates a Culture of Peace;
- A CoP is evidenced in a family or small group living organically – an organic farming community;
- In a CoP, the community supports the values of peace; People act in harmony in heart, and are not competitive or greedy; people come together around common ground;

#### **Table 2**

- A CoP is evidenced by Vegetarian Ethics;
- A CoP is marked by Universal compassion, community, and camaraderie;
- A CoP takes care of the weak and the voiceless (i.e. small children, the sick, animals, etc.), for instance, it is evidenced in Hospice;
- A CoP is marked by nonviolence toward the environment, such as no pesticides, no genetically modified foods, pollution; positive manifestations would include energy efficient mass transit systems and solar energy;
- A Culture of Peace promotes open dialogue that fosters community;
- A Culture of Peace respects all life;
- A Culture of Peace honors religious diversity;
- A CoP does not demonize the opposition, but practices fierce compassion;
- It is a culture that demands disarmament, i.e. Costa Rica and Switzerland;

#### **Table 3**

- A Culture of Peace reverences ALL Life;
- A CoP is manifested in the way Quakers make decisions;
- A CoP keeps all lines of communication open, with people really listening to one another as well as talking;
- A CoP is evidenced in the ways in which indigenous people live in balance with land and people;
- In a CoP, gender equality is essential;

#### **Table 4**

- It is marked by an absence of FEAR and GREED;
- There is no fear for safety or lack of food;
- A CoP provides for the sustenance of all; there is no hunger;
- A CoP is evidenced when there is equality in access to education and when there is no illiteracy;

- A CoP is manifested when there is equal access to healthcare, utilities, water and transportation;
- A CoP is marked by a willingness to engage freely and fully with one another while embracing differences giving mutual respect to all;
- It is marked with peace within one self, and with family and relationships; in a CoP, there is harmony, compassion and equality throughout the universe – in self, family, society, and all created nature;
- A CoP rejects all forms of domestic and international violence;
- Is marked with a fundamental attitude that respects the earth and is at peace with the earth; land is set aside for animals to live peacefully;
- In a CoP, internationally, we agree on certain shared values and principles and live by them;

**Table 5**

- A structural illustration of a Culture of Peace would be the establishment of a Department of Peace in the US Government;
- A culture of peace would effect social and economic policy in such a way that Dennis Kucinich would not be allowed to participate in the deliberations because he would be seen as being *too* conservative;
- It would be evidenced by the first female Pope calling for unity of all religions;
- In a CoP, there would be a major overhaul of the US budget; the largest portion of the national budget would go for education, the arts, and social and economic infrastructure; the highest salaried public employees would be teachers;
- In a CoP, the national symbol would be changed from an American Eagle to a Dove;
- In a CoP, Guantanamo Bay would be transformed into a training center for non-violent conflict resolution;
- A Culture of Peace would be marked with the development of economically vibrant neighborhoods;

**Table Dialogue #2:**

**Organizational Infrastructure  
Harbingers of an emerging Culture of Peace in Lee & Collier Counties**

Note: Tables #3 & #5 - No data submitted

TABLES (1-5)

ORGANIZATION / PROGRAM	Manifestation	1	2	3	4	5	Oth
ACT (Abuse Counseling Treatment Center)	Services for Abused Women		2				
Al-Anon Family Groups	12-step meetings				4		
All Faiths Unitarian Cong. (Ft. Myers)							X
Big Brothers/Big Sisters	Mentoring program for children		2				
Bonita Springs Democrats							X
Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium					4		
Celestial Church of Universal Life	internet education ministry		2				
Coalition of Immokalee Workers							X
Community Colleges and Churches	Adult Education Programs		2				

Nature Conservancy		1					
Eagle's Nest Ministry	<i>outreach to the poor</i>		2				
Earth Charter of Sanibel							X
ECHO	<Educational Concerns for Hunger Organization>						X
Edison Community College							X
EPEC (Environmental and Peace Education Center)							X
Fla Gulf Coast Univ Center for Environment	promotes sustainability		2				
Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice					4		
Food & Thought Organic Café (Naples)							X
Food Banks, Harry Chapin	Food for Cost, feeding the needy		2		4		
Food Not Bombs (Ft. Myers)	<i>feeds the hungry</i>		2				
Girls Making It On Purpose	<i>Empowering teenage girls</i>				4		
Green Party (Lee County)							X
GTW (Gather the Women)	South Fla Conference/Naples				4		
Guadalupe Social Services		1					
Guardian Ad Litem program					4		
Habitat for Humanity	<i>Builds houses for the needy</i>	1	2				
Head Start					4		
Healthy Habits (Ft. Myers)	<i>Health Food Store</i>						X
HOPE Foundation/Veronica Shoemaker					4		
Hope House (Ft. Myers)	<i>children's shelter for low-income</i>						X
Initiatives for Change, ACTION in Ft. Myers	<a href="http://www.us.iofc.org/index.php?fsn=3&amp;catid=1&amp;more=242&amp;info=5">http://www.us.iofc.org/index.php?fsn=3&amp;catid=1&amp;more=242&amp;info=5</a>				4		
Jayne's Victorian Garden	Provides a meeting place for GMIOP <?>				4		
Kevin L. Erwin Consulting Ecologists							X
Lee County: Parks and Recreation	20-20 Land Preservation Program				4		
Masters of Healing & Light Center/Ft. Myers							X
Naples for Peace	<i>Counters military recruiting in the schools</i>		2				
Oaks Farm Market (Naples)							X
Pax Christi Naples							X
Quakers (Friends) Ft. Myers							X
Quality Life Center (Abdul Mohammed)					4		
Ruth Cooper Center	<i>treats mentally ill, promotes natural health</i>		2				
Salvation Army			2				
SHARE program	<i>Low-Cost Food</i>		2				
Shelter for Abused Women		1					
Sierra Club			2				
Student Farmworker Alliance							X
SWFAS <SW.Fla. Addiction Services>	<i>Program to support people with addictions</i>		2		4		
Temple Beth-El	<i>socially progressive Jewish congregation</i>						X
The Creative Awareness Center/Bonita Springs)							X
TLC Children's Home			2				
Unitarian-Universalist Church of FM	Leading Church in Peace Demonstrations						X
Unity Church of Ft. Myers							X
Veterans for Peace (Naples)							X
Yat Kitischee Native Center/ Naples							

### **Dialogue #3:**

#### **Large Group Brainstorm on the Vision for the FCPJ Land in Bradford County:**

##### **QUESTION #1: What physical structures and features do you “see” on the land?**

- non-toxic materials used in building;
- Bingo parlor;
- nothing on the land;
- reference library center for peace issues;
- networking with universities;
- organic farming;
- single dorm facilities;
- hostel;
- off the grid;
- place for camps, dorms, cabins;
- small cabins for 6 (divider);
- walls build mistrust;
- fire circle;
- no AC; if you do use AC, it build right and efficiently;
- lot of screens;
- Florida Cracker house;
- campground shower and bathrooms;

##### **QUESTION #2: What kind of programs, events, services and educational curriculum do you see going on there?**

- Concerts;
- radio station;
- youth training;
- retreats for peace groups;
- both FCPJ run and FCPJ hosted only;
- mediation for peace activists;
- labyrinth;
- Civil Disobedience training;
- yoga retreat;
- drumming retreat;
- spiritual retreats;
- children's education;
- peace and environmental education;

##### **QUESTION #3: How does the FCPJ and its Land support and nurture the continued blossoming of a Culture of Peace in Lee and Collier Counties?**

- By coordinating with local groups and programs that advance a Culture of Peace;
- Email;
- solidarity with local groups;
- organize events around the state;
- serve as central media center (spread the word);
- partner with another center with land in other part of the state (urban);
- continuing newsletter;
- demographic study of audience attracted;
- the land is 5 hours from Fort Myers; possibly 8 would attend convocation in Gainesville;

## **Dialogue #4: Open Large Circle <w “talking” walking stick>**

### **(Final Comments and Closing Activity)**

- the key to C of P is interrelationship of people;
- because C of P is like struggle to end slavery, we need to be abolitionists; Florida will be a key state;
- we are starting a new concept - need connections;
- FCPJ is a source for contacts and connections to work with children more for peace; adults are set in their ways but children are reachable; during demonstrations, I observe parents giving the finger while kids give a peace sign;
- during visit on the land, I saw people of different backgrounds being together;
- I came here looking for a mailing list but found a room full of people thinking about a Culture of Peace;
- thank you for sharing spirits - Thank you FCPJ; I was involved with *Walk for the Earth* - hope all in this area in the new year will reach out to Florida Gulf Coast Univ (FGCU) - get monthly potlucks going w/ students to mentor next generation - start activist club on campus;
- We need to network on a regional level – I came here to connect with the larger region in SW Florida;
- Thank you all; I got new energy;
- Thank you for the dialogue; I would like to see more get togethers;

### **Closing Ritual:**

Sharing of Single Words that most capture the significance of this day, as we “weave” a pattern of yard connecting one another around the circle. Words spoken:

- balance
- harmony
- justice
- communication
- acceptance
- empathy
- simpatico / joy
- compassion
- community
- integrity
- creative tension
- inspiration
- cooperation

- community
- reverence
- consciousness
- love
- egalitarianism
- sustainability
- self-empowerment
- demilitarization
- self-respect
- namaste
- respect
- patience
- honesty

## Overview of Outreach/Participation in the Ft. Myers/Naples Dialogue

<b>Personal Letters of Invitation</b>	
1. Nomination Invitations	69
2. Addtl Invitees from FCPJ Mailing List	34
<b>Total Letters of Invitation</b>	<b>103</b>
<b>Persons Positively Impacted</b>	
3. RSVP-YES	32
4. Pre-Registered Actual Shows	17
5. Unregistered Walk-ons	9
6. Total Actual Participants	26
7. Focus Group Participants (Subset of Line 6)	4
8. Positive Regrets	21
<b>TOTAL Persons Positively Impacted &lt;Lines 3+5+8&gt;</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>POST-DIALOGUE EVALUATION</b>	
9. Evaluation Responses	9
<b>Eval Response Rate (Line 9 as % of Line 6)</b>	<b>34.6%</b>
<b>How Participants Heard about the Community Dialogue</b>	
<i>&lt;Based on responses of those who submitted Post-Dialogue Evaluations</i>	
Those who heard about it via Letter of Invitation ...	55.6%
Those who heard about it through another source...	44.4%

## **Participants' Demographics**

<Based on Pre-Dialogue Survey of those who had pre-registered >

<b>GENDER (32 respondents)</b>		
Female	75.0%	24
Male	25.0%	8
<b>AGE (29 respondents)</b>		
Under 21	0.0%	0
21-35	10.3%	3
36-50	6.9%	2
51-65	48.3%	14
Over 65	34.5%	10
<b>RACE(31 respondents)</b>		
African American	6.5%	2
Asian American	0.0%	0
Hispanic	9.7%	3
Multi-Racial	0.0%	0
Native American	3.2%	1
Non-Hispanic Caucasian <White>	77.4%	24
Other	3.2%	1

## **Participants' Work Experience <29 Respondents to Pre-Dialogue Survey>**

*Participants could select multiple responses from pre-defined options; Does not include "other" responses;*

Education	58.6%	17
Business/ Management	27.6%	8
Healthcare/Medicine	24.1%	7
Ldrship in Religious Community	24.1%	7
Social Services	20.7%	6
Journalism/Media	17.2%	5
Land Dvlpt/Civil/Env Engineering/Construction	10.3%	3
Literary Arts	10.3%	3
Agriculture/Forestry/Horticulture, etc	6.9%	2
Clerical/Administration	6.9%	2
Student <currently>	6.9%	2
Government	6.9%	2
Legal Profession	6.9%	2
Performing Arts	6.9%	2
Retail	6.9%	2
Food Service	3.4%	1
Graphic Arts	3.4%	1
Military	3.4%	1
Natural Sciences	3.4%	1
Financial Planning	0.0%	0
Fund Development	0.0%	0
Hotel/Hospitality Mgmnt	0.0%	0
IT/Computer Science	0.0%	0
Manufacturing	0.0%	0
Philanthropy	0.0%	0

<b>Transportation</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0</b>
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<Responses based on Pre-Dialogue Survey of those who had pre-registered>

<b>Select Issues Rated on their Importance to a Culture of Peace Agenda</b>	
Ft. Myers Dialogue; 29 respondents	
Rated on Scale of 1-5; 1=No Opinion; 2=Not Important;	
3=Somewhat important; 4=Very Important; 5=Critically Important;	
<b>US policy in Iraq/Middle East</b>	<b>4.76</b>
<b>Environmental Awareness/Sustainable Development</b>	<b>4.62</b>
<b>Spirituality, Health &amp; Wellness</b>	<b>4.59</b>
<b>Civil Liberties</b>	<b>4.55</b>
<b>Globalization and US Econ Policy</b>	<b>4.55</b>
<b>Education in Nonviolence and Conflict Resolution</b>	<b>4.52</b>
<b>Nuclear Disarmament</b>	<b>4.52</b>
<b>Healthcare policy</b>	<b>4.41</b>
<b>Race Relations</b>	<b>4.31</b>
<b>Democratic Principles of Participation</b>	<b>4.24</b>
<b>Labor Issues</b>	<b>4.21</b>
<b>Women's Equality</b>	<b>4.21</b>
<b>Rights of Indigenous Peoples</b>	<b>4.07</b>
<b>Interface of Religion &amp; Politics</b>	<b>3.86</b>
<b>Death Penalty in the US</b>	<b>3.79</b>
<b>Issues impacting GLBT people</b>	<b>3.69</b>

<b>Regarding the Issues you feel most passionate about, to what extent do you consider yourself an ACTIVIST?</b>		
<i>&lt;Based on 29 Respondents&gt;</i>		
I am very much an activist and am often visible within the community as such;	<b>62.1%</b>	<b>18</b>
I consider myself an activist, but not in a particularly visible way; my friends & colleagues know my position on these matters;	<b>34.5%</b>	<b>10</b>
Though I have strong feelings on these issues, I rarely express my sentiment except among the closest of confidants;	<b>3.4%</b>	<b>1</b>
I closet most of my sentiments on these matters and do not at all perceive myself as an activist	<b>0%</b>	<b>0</b>

<Responses based on Pre-Dialogue Survey of those who had pre-registered>

<b>Participants who claim their social-political activism is informed in part by religious <i>and/or</i> spiritual values; Based on 29 Respondents</b>		
<b>Yes</b>	<b>93.1%</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>No</b>	<b>6.9%</b>	<b>2</b>
Of those who responded <b>Yes</b> , participants most identified with the following traditions; Respondents could choose multiple responses; <b>Based on 26 Respondents;</b>		
<b>Christianity</b>	<b>50.0%</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Spiritual w/o Religious Affiliation</b>	<b>38.5%</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>23.1%</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Buddhism</b>	<b>19.2%</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Earth-oriented Spirituality</b>	<b>15.4%</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Judaism</b>	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Hinduism</b>	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Islam</b>	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>1</b>

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**Evaluation of the Dialogue Process:** <Based on 9 Respondents to the Fort Myers/Naples Post-Dialogue Evaluation Survey. The following is an overview of a portion of that evaluation. Open-Ended Responses and data regarding operational aspects of FCPJ are not included here. A fuller accounting of the post-dialogue evaluation survey will be aggregated within a larger report that will be circulated among participants in the upcoming FCPJ Planning Retreat (Feb. 11-12, 2006).

<b>The following statements address various elements of the content and process of the morning session. Please respond to each, indicating the degree to which you agree or disagree with each. 1=Strongly Agree; 2=Agree; 3=Disagree; 4=Strongly Disagree</b>						
	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Response Average</b>
(A) The purpose of the day was clearly communicated in the advance literature that I had seen prior to coming;	<b>33% (3)</b>	22% (2)	11% (1)	0% (0)	<b>33% (3)</b>	<b>1.67</b>
(B) I arrived with fairly accurate expectations about the gathering;	<b>33% (3)</b>	11% (1)	<b>33% (3)</b>	11% (1)	11% (1)	<b>2.25</b>
(C) The presentation and group process were appropriate and relevant to the stated purposes of the day;	<b>50% (4)</b>	12% (1)	25% (2)	0% (0)	12% (1)	<b>1.71</b>
(D) The process was well organized;	<b>67% (6)</b>	22% (2)	11% (1)	0% (0)	0% (0)	<b>1.44</b>
(E) The process was stimulating and held my interest;	<b>44% (4)</b>	33% (3)	22% (2)	0% (0)	0% (0)	<b>1.78</b>
(F) The process was sufficiently participatory;	22% (2)	<b>56% (5)</b>	11% (1)	11% (1)	0% (0)	<b>2.11</b>
(G) Given time constraints, there was sufficient time in small groups (Table Dialogues);	22% (2)	<b>56% (5)</b>	22% (2)	0% (0)	0% (0)	<b>2.00</b>
(H) Given time constraints, there was sufficient time for large group dialogue;	12% (1)	<b>50% (4)</b>	38% (3)	0% (0)	0% (0)	<b>2.25</b>
(I) The facilitator communicated clearly and effectively;	<b>56% (5)</b>	33% (3)	11% (1)	0% (0)	0% (0)	<b>1.56</b>
(J) The facilitator gave appropriate input and focus to the process;	<b>56% (5)</b>	22% (2)	22% (2)	0% (0)	0% (0)	<b>1.67</b>
(K) Audio-visuals were used effectively;	<b>44% (4)</b>	22% (2)	33% (3)	0% (0)	0% (0)	<b>1.89</b>
<b>Total Respondents</b>						<b>9</b>

The following statements address additional elements of the content and process of the morning session. Please respond to each, indicating the degree to which you agree or disagree with each.						
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/A	Response Average
(L) The printed material on the table was relevant to the dialogue;	0% (0)	<b>89% (8)</b>	11% (1)	0% (0)	0% (0)	<b>2.11</b>
(M) The 1st Table Dialogue activity, on defining the characteristics of a <i>Culture of Peace</i> , was stimulating and thought provoking;	33% (3)	<b>44% (4)</b>	22% (2)	0% (0)	0% (0)	<b>1.89</b>
(N) The 2nd Table Dialogue activity, on mapping the organizational infrastructure of a <i>Culture of Peace</i> in Lee/Collier counties, and its emerging manifestations, was stimulating and thought provoking;	11% (1)	<b>44% (4)</b>	33% (3)	0% (0)	11% (1)	<b>2.25</b>
(O) The transition from talking about a Culture of Peace to the discussion about a vision for the "land" and a Peace and Justice educational center was appropriate and coherently communicated;	11% (1)	<b>67% (6)</b>	22% (2)	0% (0)	0% (0)	<b>2.11</b>
(P) The large group "brainstorming" about ideas for developing a Peace and Justice "Center" was stimulating and thought provoking;	11% (1)	<b>56% (5)</b>	33% (3)	0% (0)	0% (0)	<b>2.22</b>
(Q) The concluding dialogue with the "talking stick" was effective and helpful to bring some closure to the process;	<b>33% (3)</b>	<b>33% (3)</b>	<b>33% (3)</b>	0% (0)	0% (0)	<b>2.00</b>
(R) The symbolic ritual of "weaving a culture of peace" with the ball of yarn was meaningful and an appropriate way to end the morning session;	<b>44% (4)</b>	33% (3)	22% (2)	0% (0)	0% (0)	<b>1.78</b>
(S) The meeting facilities were adequate and appropriate to our needs;	44% (4)	<b>56% (5)</b>	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	<b>1.56</b>

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(T) My hopes and expectations for the day were met;	<b>44% (4)</b>	0% (0)	22% (2)	33% (3)	0% (0)	<b>2.44</b>
(U) I left with a sense for a renewed hope, vision, and commitment to the work needed to advance a Culture of Peace in my community;	<b>38% (3)</b>	0% (0)	<b>38% (3)</b>	25% (2)	0% (0)	<b>2.50</b>
<b>Total Respondents</b>						<b>9</b>

**This set of questions** relate to the vision to develop a Peace and Justice Center on the land owned by the FCPJ in Bradford County. *Rated on Scale of 1-4; 1=Strongly Agree; 2=Agree; 3=Disagree; 4=Strongly Disagree;*

	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>I don't Know</b>	<b>Response Average</b>
(A) The vision that was put forth regarding an educational, training and research Center, with appropriate overnight facilities, meets a real need for the wider "Peace & Justice" community in Florida;	33% (3)	<b>56% (5)</b>	0% (0)	0% (0)	11% (1)	<b>1.63</b>
(B) Such a center, if properly developed, would likely be used by <i>peace culture</i> groups and individuals from SW Florida;	<b>44% (4)</b>	11% (1)	11% (1)	0% (0)	33% (3)	<b>1.50</b>
(C) The FCPJ's vision for the land is real and possible. Go for it!	<b>56% (5)</b>	11% (1)	0% (0)	11% (1)	22% (2)	<b>1.57</b>
<b>Total Respondents</b>						<b>9</b>

**REPORT END**  
**12/31/05**