

The United Church of Canada

Bancroft United Communities of Faith

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St. Paul's, Bancroft

St. Matthew's, Baptiste

St. Andrew's, L'Amable

December 20, 2024

Chris Houston, FRSA
President, Canadian Peace Museum
PO Box 30005
Bancroft, ON K0L 0B0

To Chris Houston,

We, St Paul's United Church, Bancroft, are pleased to support the Canadian Peace Museum coming to Bancroft.

As a United Church, and member of the Canadian Council of Churches, we believe that our God is a God of peace. We believe that peace is at the heart of who God is, and that peace is about right relationship with God, between and among people, and nature.

Since all people are made in the image of God, peace is also at the heart of who each person is, and that peace is a longing for all people. And since each person is a beloved child of God, made in God's image, of divine origin, each person must be treated accordingly: this means that all people are to be treated with dignity and respect and freedom.

Peace, of course, is not merely the absence of conflict, rather it is being part of creating a world in which God's righteousness and justice prevail for all people in all times and all places. Jesus said, "blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." Being part of creating a just peace, means engaging in political work, as an expression of hope- a hope founded in the knowledge that God longs for a world where all are free from fear and want, from discrimination and oppression.

Christianity is not, of course, the only faith to have peace as a central teaching and way of living. Indeed, almost every faith has as one of its core tenets the "Golden Rule" which says, "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you," or "What is hateful to you, do not do to others." Thus, we share with many other faiths a striving to do what is "good" unto others and put a stop to what is hateful to others.

As Christians, part of what is "good" is the promotion of peace. This is precisely what the Canadian Peace Museum will offer to the people of Bancroft and to all the people who travel to this area each year.

We are grateful to Christ Houston and the board of Canadian Peace Museum for all their work in bringing a beacon of hope and such an important voice for peace to our town. As a community of faith, we are grateful that our minister, Rev. Svinda Heinrichs, could participate at both the unveiling of the Bancroft Peace Pole and at the "Stories of Peace" Award Ceremony.

We pray that all the other endeavours of the Canadian Peace Museum help to bring about a just peace here at home and around the world.

Yours in Peace,

Rev. Svinda Heinrichs, Minister, Bancroft United Communities of Faith
Trina Wootton, Chair, St. Paul's United Church, Bancroft