

Unity and Diversity is one of the Enduring Principles of the Community of Christ and our theme for this service. Unity is the catalyst that brings diverse opinions, peoples, and competing points of view together in peace characterized by compromise, taking turns, patience, and cooperation.

Like the saying, “you can’t have peace without justice” we might say that you can’t have unity without diversity” such unity would be called homogenous not unified. Other words may also apply, like sterile, non-creative, and boring..

The Des Moines metropolitan area is a mix of diverse religions and denominations. In some cases there are severe theological differences. In some cases, diversity takes the form of animosity, ignoring, supremacy, and competition. There are relationships with members of Baha’ism, Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Judaism, Sikhism, Unitarian Universalism and Native American religion.

On the other hand, the Des Moines Area Religious Council has been a catalyst for cooperation. At its roots, DMARC is a multi-faith collaboration working to meet basic needs in the Des Moines community. DMARC congregations prefer to ignore differences and celebrate commonalities to do God’s work together.

Like DMARC, diverse individuals, groups and cultures can celebrate things that could separate preferring God’s work more than differences. Finding unity in differences is the finest way of loving ourselves, God and others. Noticing, celebrating and ignoring differences expresses caring for those involved.

Diverse God,

In your work of creation you provide diversity in so many forms. The abundance of creation is seen in diverse species of plants and animals, varied cultures throughout the world, and noticeable and hidden differences between people, individuals and groups. The world is made wonderful because of this variety. At least it is wonderful when different elements chose peace rather than conflict.

Help us, we pray, be agents for peace, doing our part in differences being overcome and commonalities being celebrated. Inspire with the power of the Holy Spirit to do your work in the world. We pray in the name of the Peaceful One. Amen.