



**From Doubt to Hope:
Rediscovering the Healing Power of Interfaith Action**

By Mia Moran, Interfaith Action Intern

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.

With God our Creator, family all are we.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow;

To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

— *‘Let There Be Peace on Earth’ by Jill Jackson-Miller & Sy Miller*

Admittedly, at one point in time I had given up on religion. I had viewed religion as an obstacle rather than an instrument to peace, thinking that it only divided people, compelling us to compare “who was morally superior.”

I found that the news and media saw religion as destructive, framing it as if the religion itself was harmful rather than how people have manipulated religion in a way that justified their harmful agenda.

But, more recently, I have found reason for hope.

During my time at university, I have been exposed to more expansive theologies and embodied faith practices, like those found in liberation theology.

Further, attending the Celebration of the Harvest and Harvesters fed hope to my soul with the healing power of sharing faith. The gathering confirmed to me what had previously been posed to me as improbable—that there can be solidarity between faith groups and that Interfaith spaces are bridges to peace.

As I listened to each faith community share their prayers and scriptures, I wondered how long these faith traditions have existed and how many hearts and minds they have touched. I marveled over how despite our differences there was a tradition in each faith group that celebrated harvest and harvesters. The event was truly unifying and special to me: *to believe and to share, how human is that?*

Over my time at Interfaith Action, I wrote about topics that impacted our Common Life, Common Home, and Common Good—Interfaith Action’s agenda—such as the indigenous community in Michigan, immigration policy issues, and white Christian nationalism. It felt powerful to promote these issues from an Interfaith platform because of its dynamic combination of faith, community, and traditions. And, it proved to me that we are not more divided because of our differences in faith, but that we are inherently united because of our faiths.

Because of Interfaith Action, I was able to meet Senator Mallory McMorrow—the 2023 Leadership for the Common Good awardee—and speak and learn from the directors and coordinators of Interfaith Action, who have dedicated their time and life to fostering a coalition between faith congregations.

Just as others have shared with me their faith and passions for Interfaith, I wanted to share my school song from back home: “Let There Be Peace on Earth”. Although I had not realized it at the time, I believe it shaped my outlook and purpose in life. I hope that it resonates with you as it did with me.

“Let There Be Peace on Earth” asks us to prioritize the Common Life, Common Home, and Common Good. In the song, “*family all are we*” highlights our Common Life; “*Earth*” highlights our Common Home; and “*Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony*” highlights the importance of the Common Good.

Perhaps that is why, back in August I felt called to apply as an intern at Interfaith Action after reading the Interfaith Action’s purpose statement that grounded our differences by highlighting our commonalities—our Life, Home, and vision for a collective Good.

With this, I am deeply grateful that I applied. During my time with Interfaith Action, I walked alongside a group of people committed to recognizing the human dignity in all people. I witnessed the beauty and the strength of Interfaith work. It will undoubtedly inform my own future as a person of faith.

And so I hope this provides us with a reminder to:

Choose Peace on Earth.

Choose Interfaith.