

**Step up to Shalom this year at the National Summit
Oct 28-31, 2009
Radisson Hotel in Columbia, South Carolina**

Registration fee: \$250 (includes program and meals)

On behalf of the National Committee of the Communities of Shalom and the Theological School of Drew University, I invite you to attend the National Shalom Summit VII on October 28-31, 2009 at the Radisson Hotel in Columbia, South Carolina.

The purpose of the National Summit is to bring together as many as 400 community and church leaders representing more than 100 shalom zones in the United States and Africa for a time of sharing, inspiration, learning, networking and training.

The Gathering is designed to help community developers and shalom sites step up to a higher level of systemic and sustainable change through:
asset-based economic community development,
congregational-community partnerships, and
financial and administrative excellence.

Together we will focus on the theme, Stepping Up To Shalom - Seeking Systemic Change through Community Development.

The easiest way to register is online at www.communitiesofshalom.org where a full description can be read and downloaded about the Gathering.

The three-day event will feature selected Shalom sites that have stepped up from acts of mercy to peace with justice, from social services to community development, and from relief work to systemic change.

Plenary sessions will feature national speakers who inspire and embody the theme. Practical workshops and local site visits will be offered on a variety of strategies and threads of shalom. And there will be music for the soul, laughter for the body, and worship for the spirit.

Practical workshops will be offered including:

- Green-CollarJobs: Crisis and Opportunity
- Social Networking and Online Fund-raising
- Community-Congregational Healthcare Partnerships
- Community Mapping: Utilizing Higher Technology
- Spiritual Growth: Walking the Labyrinth
- The Beloved Community: A Practical Theology of Shalom
- Sustainability: Funding Shalom Sites
- Community Organizing: A Biblical Theology and Practice of Power

A youth component is planned as a separate track facilitated by the JustUs Youth program of the General Board of Global Ministries with full scholarships for 30 selected youth.

Columbia, SC was chosen by the planning committee because of its unique rural Shalom sites and their prophetic witness to racial reconciliation and economic community development.

The South Carolina Annual Conference of the UMC will host the National Shalom Summit. The Annual Conference sponsors and supports over 30 individual shalom sites in the State, and was the first to adopt and adapt the Shalom concept to the rural context-expanding the urban ShalomZone initiative to an urban and rural movement of Communities of Shalom.

Every Shalom community, theological school, local church, or Annual Conference committed to building stronger congregations and communities is urged to sponsor at least one person per Shalom site for the three-day event.

Your participation and early registration will ensure its success.

A hard-copy registration form is attached for your convenience if you wish to mail in a group registration.

I look forward to seeing you in Columbia, SC, during the last weekend in October.
Shalom/Salaam/Peace,

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