

# MnMN - Minnesota Multifaith Network

*Connecting and supporting multifaith work to heal the world.*

The Mission of the Minnesota Multifaith Network is to be the statewide network supporting faith and interfaith leaders and organizations working for a more just and loving world.

MnMN believes that a network approach will help communities of faith fully realize their potential to mobilize the broader community to address critical issues affecting our common life in Minnesota, particularly: divisive and destructive intergroup relationships; disparities of privilege, opportunity, equity and quality of life; and degradation of the environment.

## **MnMN's Roles for "Connecting and Supporting":**

1. **Convene:** MnMN supports faith and interfaith leaders and organizations by creating space for relationship building, network weaving, learning and training, and cultivating potential alliances among leaders and the broader public across the state. **Examples: annual conference, moderated discussion groups for leaders and organizers (e.g., on Facebook or in person).**
2. **Communicate:** There is so much important work being done and good work yet to be done. MnMN aspires to be the central address for communicating, bolstering, and making more publicly visible, multifaith efforts in Minnesota. **Examples: state-of-the-art website and social media presence.**

## **MnMN's Three-fold Policy Statement:**

1. As a network, MnMN **convenes** faith and interfaith leaders and organizations who will speak, act, and mobilize the public including people with various religious, spiritual and secular identities, worldviews and ways of life.
  - o As MnMN's role is in convening people as a network and not advocating as an organization. Its role is not to sign onto letters, sponsor events, or issue statements.
  - o No individual from MnMN speaks on behalf of the network of MnMN.
  - o Any MnMN Board or Advisory member who mentions their role with MnMN is doing so for identification purposes only.
  - o MnMN will sponsor events for learning, relationship building, and providing space for creating actions among members of the network.

2. MnMN recognizes that **communication** amplifies actions and voices in our network and thus is a selective process. MnMN will communicate efforts and events if they serve MnMN's mission.
3. MnMN works with faith and interfaith leaders and organizations who **“work for a more just and loving world.”**
  - All who associate with MnMN will uphold the principles of human rights as articulated in the UN Declaration of Human Rights which upholds the equal treatment of all people and all faiths and which begins: “Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world...All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of [humanity]...” <https://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>
  - All who associate with MnMN will support each other based on the values of religious respect, pluralism, and dialogue (see below) which MnMN fosters in Minnesota. MnMN holds a space for people of all faiths to feel safe and meet with curiosity to build increased understanding and opportunities to work together. MnMN does not tolerate hostility towards any religion or religious group.
    - I. What is “religious respect, pluralism, and dialogue?” This refers not to mere tolerance but to the energetic engagement of religious diversity and understanding across lines of difference. Based on relationship-building, encounter, and dialogue, MnMN does not require members and organizations to give up or leave behind their identities and commitments. Rather MnMN encourages holding our deepest differences not in isolation, but in relationship to one another. Dialogue and encounter “does not mean everyone at the ‘table’ will agree with one another. Pluralism involves the commitment to being at the table — with one’s commitments.” ([Pluralism Project](#), Harvard University)
  - Anyone on the board, advisory council, contracting for, or employed by MnMN must uphold these values and policies. The Board is ultimately responsible for the membership and the participation with MnMN and will develop a process for addressing perceived violations in a compassionate and dialogical way.