

Peace Pole Dedication Service



Stopping violence, building peace.

This sample service for dedicating peace poles comes from Yvonne Riege. Please use it as inspiration for creating a service in your community.

Yvonne: Mark and I purchased our first peace pole in 1996, when we were in New Windsor, Maryland for training in ministry. We brought this tiny piece home with us. Our boys – ages 4 and 7, at that point, grew up with it always visible somewhere in the house. Most recently its home has been beside our kitchen stove. Church of the Brethren congregations often have peace poles. While serving as pastor of the Goshen City congregation, I worked with our church board and one was placed in a peace garden at the east side of the building near the entrance. I also serve on the Quiet Place Steering Committee for Camp Mack. About a year ago we worked together in the placement of a peace pole across from the retreat center in a garden in memory of a dear friend.

Mark: As you have noted there are six different languages represented on our peace pole. We've specifically chosen each one...

Cherokee – in honor of my 1/8 heritage
Thai – honor of our Thai daughter
German – heritage for both of us
Spanish – in honor of predominant language of the world
Hebrew – in honor of our Biblical faith
English – recognizing this as the language we use each day

Yvonne: Tonight we gather to simply appreciate and affirm the message of Jesus' life here on earth. Jesus spoke a message of peace in all that he did. We affirm the words of our Lord and Savior.

As we move further into our time together I invite you to be prepared to say with us the words, "May Peace Prevail On Earth". If you know another language and would prefer to say these words in that tongue, feel free. I will indicate to you with my hand when you are invited to say this with us.

Yvonne: Jesus said, blessed are the peacemakers.

Mark: We are called to be peacemakers.

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All: May peace prevail on earth.

Yvonne: In this holy moment we pause and remember times when we have not been peaceful in our actions. I invite you to pick up a stone and to look it over and ponder actions you have taken that were not Christ-like.

Mark: But the beauty of our life in Christ is that we can move beyond what formerly bound us. We are able to let go. I invite you to release this stone as you begin anew today.

All: May peace prevail on earth.

Yvonne: I invite you to begin even now to consider peaceful actions you will take in making this world a more peaceful place – times of silence to meditate on God’s word, times to give and share, times to love.

Mark: We are called to be peacemakers. May the God who loves and cares for us all help us to envision a new peaceful tomorrow.

All: May peace prevail on earth.

~ Yvonne Riege, 2012