A Litany for Peace - “Fear not!”

ONE: The people of the world have been living in a state of fear for too long. It is time to turn toward faith and hope and peace.
ALL: And Jesus said, "Fear not!"

ONE: We understand that peacemaking is hard work. We add our voice to other peacemakers who desire diplomacy over bombs and urge talks over threats. We know another way is possible. Jesus’ insistence on loving enemies precludes the willingness to kill them. Waging peace requires at least as much commitment – as much courage, pride, honor and ingenuity – as the pursuit of war. We urge all world leaders to make that commitment to peace.
ALL: And Jesus said, "Fear not!"

ONE: We call on the US and its allies to use ethical, humanitarian principles regarding Iran. It appears political leaders in the United States and Israel may be seriously calculating the benefits and risks of attacking Iran. If so, they are pushing the world to moral, financial, ecological and diplomatic peril. This we vigorously protest.
ALL: We know another way is possible.

ONE: In the same way, we pledge vigorous support for any leaders willing to consider Iran’s security concerns and national interests alongside those of Israel and the United States. Competition in belligerent behavior carries catastrophic risks.
ALL: Seek peace and pursue it.

ONE: Recent history proves war isn’t working. We urge the US and its allies to use every means at their disposal to prevent a strike on Iran by Israel and to pursue a diplomatic resolution to the dispute over Iran’s alleged nuclear weapons program.
ALL: Seek peace and pursue it.

ONE: The Apostle Paul’s instruction to overcome evil with good is both a spiritual truth and the foundation for politically realistic strategies to transform conflict. Therefore, we urge the US and its allies to use the strategies of multilateral diplomacy and other nonviolent initiatives.
ALL: Seek peace and pursue it.

ONE: There is within Iran, as within all countries, a core group of those committed to peacemaking. We must not undercut their efforts by playing into the hands of the warmongers. Instead, let us heed the example set by the Israeli couple Ronny Edry and his wife Michal Tamir and make clear our love and concern for the people of Iran.
ALL: Seek peace and pursue it.

ONE: Throughout the Gospels, Jesus urges his disciples to "Fear not!" That call reverberates down the centuries, calling us to a life of faith, hope and peace. It is our prayer that the US and its allies will find ways to heed that call today and turn to waging peace. We pledge our active support for all nonviolent actions that move toward reconciliation and peace with the Iranian people.
ALL: Fear not! AMEN!

Based on “An Open Letter to President Obama” sent March 28, 2012