

CHAPTER 4

Making the Commitment

Peace and Power begins with individuals in a group who consciously choose values consistent with the PEACE values of Praxis, Empowerment, Awareness, Cooperation, and Evolvement, and values that are described as the PEACE powers. Here are examples of words and actions arising from PEACE power values:

A commitment to the Power of Process means:

- Giving yourself and everyone else in the group time to attend to a concern or issue that exists for any individual.
- Letting decisions emerge gradually, realizing that very few decisions are urgent.
- Inviting everyone in the group to express their ideas or concerns during the discussion.
- Acknowledging the things that happen that are consistent with the group's values.

A commitment to the Power of Letting Go means:

- Acknowledging but setting aside your own interests, in order for others in the group to express their interests fully.
- Supporting others who are new, or learning something new, in their work of taking on something you are already skilled at doing.
- Expressing your misgivings or concerns about a situation in the group, but letting the sense of the group prevail when the group needs to move on to something else.

A commitment to the Power of the Whole means:

- Placing your own individual needs and interests within the context of the group.
- Seeking ways to do things together to equalize your power within the group.

A commitment to the Power of Collectivity means:

- Taking into account the interests of every member of the group, including those who are not present.
- Making sure that every concern is carefully integrated into every discussion and decision.

A commitment to the Power of Solidarity means:

- Addressing conflict openly and constructively, and, in so doing, working actively to strengthen the integrity of the group.
- Keeping the group's principles of solidarity in conscious awareness as a basis for moving forward.
- Celebrating shared values and joys.

A commitment to the Power of Sharing means:

- Taking responsibility for leadership and tasks, including things you enjoy doing and can do well, as well as things you would rather not do but that need to be done.
- Encouraging others to join in passing skills and tasks along by assuming tasks from others.

A commitment to the Power of Integration means:

- Listening actively and deliberately to every concern or idea that others bring to the group, and taking active steps to understand and act on others' points of view.
- Taking actions that encourage bringing things together, rather than polarizing them into opposing points of view.

A commitment to the Power of Nurturing means:

- Treating others in ways that convey love and respect.
- Acknowledging that each individual's experience has uniquely qualified her to be where she is at the present.
- Affirming and rejoicing in the knowledge that each person in the group has power to use, and power to choose how to use it.
- Using critical reflection (see Chapter 9) to bring forth the best for every individual and the group.

A commitment to the Power of Distribution means:

- Taking actions to overcome imbalances in personal material resources among group members.
- Using resources that are available to the group - "Linda is willing to help us out of this tax mess" is a means, not an end.
- Working to make resources that are available accessible to all based on need, in the interest of the development of the group and each individual.

A commitment to the Power of Intuition means:

- Taking the time to think, feel, and experience the fullness of a situation.
- Taking actions that seem risky when your instinct tells you to go ahead.
- Paying attention to the intuition of others and taking their sense of things seriously.

A commitment to the Power of Consciousness means:

- Talking about the values on which you are building your actions so that everyone can be fully aware of your intentions.
- Exploring with others awareness of feelings, situations, responses, and meanings in your

experiences.

A commitment to the Power of Diversity means:

- Carefully considering another point of view when your immediate response is to reject it.
- Taking deliberate actions to keep yourself and the group open to welcoming others who are different or new.
- Paying attention to subtle assumptions that may not hold true for everyone in the group.

A commitment to the Power of Responsibility means:

- Keeping everyone in the group fully informed about anything in your personal life that might affect the group as a whole.
- Acting to make sure that nothing is mystified, that everything that concerns the group is equally accessible to every member.
- Actively checking in and closing in a spirit of contributing to the growth and development of the group.

A commitment to the Power of Creativity means:

- Imagining possibilities that have not yet been tried.
- Drawing on everyone's ideas to craft new solutions to persistent problems.
- Making better use of time, resources, and energy to accomplish what needs to be done.

A commitment to the Power of Trust means:

- Letting everyone know your intentions and what you plan to do next.
- Keeping your promises.
- Taking time to assure others of your commitment to your relationship.
- Disclosing your underlying values when you speak or act.