# UPF's Peace Road 2020 will go from Washington DC to Anchorage Alaska

Demian Dunkley July 20, 2020



<u>Peace Road 2020: Reconciling All People</u> is going on a road trip. A van of young Unificationists will tour the country, bringing healing and reconciliation to America. The four-week tour, kicking off virtually on July 28 and ending August 21, aims to stem the conflict and suffering happening in the U.S. A new fundraiser on <u>GoFundMe</u>, initiated by Unificationist Larry Moffitt, will help cover gas, food, and lodging.

"Together, America can begin a new era of peace and hope," said Moffitt. "This summer many faith leaders are visiting the historic sites in America where suffering and injustice have occurred. We will join hands, offer our repentance, and offer our determination to end this sad era and begin a new era, reconciling the human family in love and faith."

# RELATED: 2019 Peace Road Bike Tour in New York

The national tour will begin at Point Comfort near Jamestown, Virginia, where the first black slaves were brought to America in 1619, while another tour will start concurrently in Plymouth, Massachusetts, where the Pilgrims landed in 1620. Peace Road will span many states, ending in Alaska. "These were the first people to arrive in America 400 years ago; one group was in search of religious freedom, the other was in chains," said Moffitt.

The Peace Road fundraiser has quickly gained momentum and support with more than \$8,000 raised of the \$20,000 goal. "We want people of all races and faith backgrounds to understand America's history,

including the good and bad," said Moffitt. "The goal is to seek God's wisdom and loving guidance so that the current situation of pain and injustice can be addressed by all Americans as brothers and sisters."

Peace Road, an international movement started in 2015 by Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU) co-founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, has successfully brought together people of diverse backgrounds seeking peace and unity. Similarly, Dr. Moon launched <u>Peace Starts With Me</u> in 2017, a peace movement promoting reconciliation within ourselves and with others.

"There are so many things that America went through to get where we are today and we want our younger generations to connect with elders to discuss the future of America," said Peace Road National Coordinator Rev. Miilhan Stephens. "Peace Road is a very hopeful message and a very meaningful journey, it's not just symbolic. We are bringing together public officials and faith leaders to promote peace during a time where this is essential."

The Peace Road teams will visit the slave markets of South Carolina, the Trail of Tears, and the Underground Railroad, to name a few historic sites. "We will be praying at Wounded Knee, Sand Creek, and Black Wall Street, a town that was burned to the ground in Tulsa, among many other places," said Moffitt.

The tour will also stop at sites that honor individuals who overcame injustice and tragedy through love and sacrifice, including people like Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass, Abraham Lincoln, Black Kettle, Chief Joseph, the Freedom Riders, war veterans, and many more who gave everything for America.

Historic churches and places that represent the hope and promise of America are on the itinerary as well. "Let's end the violence and hate," said Moffitt. "The only way is through God's love."

You can support the Peace Road 2020 tour on <u>GoFundMe</u>, and follow the team's journey on <u>peaceroadusa.org</u>.



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NEW YORK

The Peace Road Bike Tour began at Central Park, corner of 59th Street and Columbus Circle. The Bike Tour circled a designated route around Central Park. The Peace Road Bike Tour segment was coordinated by Peace Road National Coordinator, Emiljun Rapada, of UPF USA. Forty participants participated, including families and children. Adults and youths from different colors and ethnic backgrounds rode together to promote the International Peace Highway

Another team who did the Peace Walk at the United Nations began at the United Nations, at 45th Street and 1st Avenue, New York. Dr. Luonne Rouse began the Peace Walk with an invocation and World Scripture Reading. Rev. Edner Pierre Louis gave welcome remarks. A "Blessing of Nations" Prayer was given, by Maria L. Vargas. It continued to the Isaiah Wall, a historical landmark located at Ralph Bunche Park, 43rd St, & 1st Ave, (directly across from United Nations). Dedicated in 1948, The Isaiah Wall, made with granite rock, is inscribed with Isaiah 2:4: "They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.". Dr. Luonne Rouse noted as the Peace Walk marchers were arriving at the Isaiah Wall, under almost completely clear blue skies, sounds of thunder were heard. Another stop was the Good Defeats Evil Statue, located at the UN Garden, 47th, and 1st Avenue. The Good Defeats Evil Statue was created as a

monument to peace. The sculpture is composed of parts of the actual United States and Soviet missiles. The work depicts St. George, one arm raised, as he drives a lance through a double-headed dragon. St. George was a Christian martyr and ended at 43rd Street and up to 5th Avenue, singing "God Bless America", and chanting, led by Dr. Rouse, "Peace Starts With Me." As the Peace Walk marchers passed a group of construction workers, they joined in chanting, "Peace Starts With Me!".

A One World Peace Festival - a celebratory festival event, uniting as one world family culminated the event. Dr. Luonne Rouse hosted the celebration. The invocation was given by AFP Prophetess Raquel Reeves and greetings were given by Rev. Edner Pierre Louis and Ambassador for Peace Rosa Carmino Blanco. Maria L. Vargas gave a concise presentation on "Culture of Peace" while some youths read "Prayers for World Peace", from the three Abrahamic faith traditions: Christianity, Judaism, Islam, and the the Family Federation.

Festival performers that performed for peace included:

- Rev. Jessie Edwards leading a sing-along with "When the Saints Come Marching In;
- Dance Performance by Allyh Phillipa (lead Praise Dancer in the Peace Start With Me rally in Las Vegas);
- WFWP Girls, a youth group from Elizabeth, NJ, performing Waka Waka dance performance;
- Soloist musical performance;
- 43rd St. Choir singers; and
- Dance Performance by youth dancer Raven Mcrae (from Bishop Lewis Sulanch's church)

The program ended with the grand finale with participants joining in singing, to dance performance of "Every Praise".



### Peace Road USA: Reconciling Black and White & All

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6	Lawrence Moffitt is organizing this fu	ndraiser on behalf of	Universal Peace Federation USA Inc.	Donations are 100% tax deductible.
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We are all weary of the conflict and anger and sadness and suffering going on in America and the world right now. Peace Road 2020 addresses this with love, inclusion, understanding, repentance and reconciliation.

We begin at Point Comfort near Jamestown, VA where the first black slaves were brought here in 1619 and Plymouth, Massachusetts where the Pilgrims landed in 1620 - the Black family and the White family 400 years ago - one in search of religious freedom, the other in chains. Black, White, Native American, Hispanic, Asian, brothers and sisters of all faith backgrounds will seek to understand our history, the good and the tragic of it. The goal is to seek God's wisdom and loving guidance, so that the current situation of pain and injustice can be addressed by all Americans as brothers and sisters.

Peace Starts With Me, a movement created by Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, has successfully brought people of every race and faith together throughout America since 2017, in experiences of hope and love. We have a track-record of healing and tearful reconciliation.

This summer we are visiting the historic sites in America where suffering and injustice have occurred - the slave markets of South Carolina, the Trail of Tears and the Underground Railroad. We will bring people together to pray at Wounded Knee, Sand Creek, where Black Wall Street, an all-Black city that was burned to the ground in Tulsa, and many other sites where we will join hands, offer our repentance and determination that we will end this sad era and begin a new era, reconciling the human family in love and faith.

We will also visit those sites which honor individuals who overcame injustice and tragedy through love and sacrifice - Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass, Abraham Lincoln, Black Kettle, Chief Joseph, the Freedom Riders, Red Cross founder Clara Barton, the Tuskegee Airmen, war veterans and the many who gave all for this country.

We will visit sites that represent hope and promise of America – Philadelphia's Independence Hall, Richard Allen's Mother Bethel AME Church, and others.

Enough is enough. Let's end the violence and hate. Let's begin together, a new era of peace and hope.

Report fundraiser

Please donate to support the Peace Road Riders, follow the teams on Facebook who will start from many places in the U.S. on July 29.

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## New York

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## Portland

There was a lively spirit in Portland, Oregon as local families held a Peace Road Rally on July 23. About 25 riders rode from the Holy Ground on Mt. Tabor to Peace Park.

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