



TRI-FAITH INITIATIVE FACT SHEET



WHAT IS THE TRI-FAITH INITIATIVE?

The Tri-Faith Initiative of Omaha is an unprecedented interfaith endeavor which:

- Includes members of the three Abrahamic faiths (Judaism, Christianity, Islam).
- Is committed to planning an interfaith center which will facilitate learning and respect from intentionally collaborative efforts.
- Has a vision to create an environment that will cultivate inter-faith cooperation, enhance human harmony, live a mutual heritage of belief, and worship One Almighty and loving God.
- Is a globally unique project that intentionally co-locates Jewish, Christian and Muslim houses of worship to promote dialogue, transcend differences, foster acceptance, and build bridges of respect and trust.

WHO ARE THE TRI-FAITH PARTNERS?

- Temple Israel is a local Reform Jewish congregation founded in 1871. Nearly 750 families belong to the congregation, which strives to bridge tradition and modernity linking the community's rich history with fresh approaches to spirituality.
- Countryside Community Church, United Church of Christ is a local congregation formed in 1949. On April 12, 2015, the congregation voted to become the Christian presence on the Tri-Faith campus. The Episcopal Diocese of Nebraska was the original Christian partner and remains an enthusiastic advocate, but has yielded campus building leadership to Countryside, which is an open, inclusive and affirming family of faith with a long tradition of interfaith collaboration.
- The American Muslim Institute (AMI; formerly known as the American Institute of Islamic Studies and Culture) is a local, autonomous nonprofit organization founded in 2006. AMI's mission is to promote a better understanding of Islam in the Western world, both within the Muslim and Non-Muslim communities. AMI is non-denominational and welcomes Muslims from all schools of thought and seeks to affirm the core values of Islam: Acceptance, Compassion, Equality, Justice and Peace.

IS THE TRI-FAITH INITIATIVE LOCALLY-BASED AND FUNDED?

- Yes – 99% of all funds for the Tri-Faith Initiative have come from local supporters and philanthropists within the Omaha community.
 - The Tri-Faith Initiative is governed by a local board of directors consisting of representatives from each faith partner and six additional community members.
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WHAT IS THE TIMELINE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TRI-FAITH COMMONS?

- Temple Israel completed construction of its new synagogue in 2013.
 - AMI will complete construction on its mosque and educational center and will open in spring 2017.
 - Countryside Community Church plans to break ground on its new church in summer 2017 and complete construction in late 2018.
 - The Tri-Faith Center, the fourth building on campus, will be the last building constructed. Completion is expected in fall 2019.
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WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE TRI-FAITH CENTER?

- The Tri-Faith Center will be a place to act, learn, and gather. We will promote policies protecting religions and democracies, and unite our diverse voices to challenge extremism.
- Our educational mission will inform and develop understanding about the history, beliefs, rituals and practices of the Abrahamic faiths through curriculum materials, multimedia exhibits, games, films, lectures and other techniques. We will celebrate religious and cultural differences and our common commitment to justice. We will also recruit scholars, clergy in training and research fellows to work in residence at the Tri-Faith Center.
- Beyond the three founding congregations, we will invite the participation of the broader religious community of Jews, Christians and Muslims, both locally, and across the globe. All programs of the Tri-Faith Center will be open to the general public regardless of faith affiliation.

