

MEADVILLE LOMBARD

theological school

NEWS

April 5, 2005

Contact:

Tina Porter

tporter@meadville.edu

(773) 256-3000 ext. 236

"A PEACE POLE GROWS ON 57TH STREET"

A Peace Pole will be planted on the Meadville Lombard Theological School campus, 5701 S. Woodlawn Ave. in Hyde Park on Saturday, April 9, at 5:00 p.m.

A peace pole is an eight-foot tall marker with the bottom "planted" in the ground that invites people to join a growing network of peace consciousness emerging around the world. Bret Lortie, a third-year student at Meadville Lombard, is helping to organize the planting. Lortie says the peace pole shows "that a number of Meadville Lombard students, partners, staff and faculty felt that their commonly shared value of peace was so important that they would erect a symbol around which the community can be reminded of the hope that peace will indeed prevail in our homes, communities, and the world."

According to the World Peace Prayer Society, there are more than 200,000 peace poles in 180 countries dedicated "as constant reminders for us to visualize and pray for world peace."

Unitarian Universalists have long held deep associations with the international peace movement, and having a peace pole at Meadville Lombard, a UU seminary, reminds the community of the UU history of supporting peace. Lortie says the pole stands as a "message of hope in our ability to work together in our school, neighborhood, and national and international communities."

The Meadville Lombard peace pole will have the words "May Peace Prevail on Earth, May Peace Prevail in our Homes and Communities," written on it in English, as well as in Arabic and Spanish.

The Peace Pole is funded by the Meadville Lombard Peace Network, with money donated by students, faculty and staff, as well as members of the Hyde Park community.