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Campus pastors to sponsor day of fast on Oct. 31

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MISSOULA--

Three campus pastors at the University of Montana, Missoula, will sponsor a city-wide day of fasting in conjunction with National Peace Day Saturday Oct. 31.

Coordinating the event are the Rev. Jonathan Nelson of the Lutheran Student Association; the Rev. David VanDyck of the United Campus Christian Fellowship, and the Rev. William J. Kliber of the Wesley Foundation.

In a joint statement, the three campus pastors encouraged individual fasting and donations to UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund, on Oct. 31. The regular UNICEF fund collection is Thursday (Oct. 29) in Missoula.

"We sense in our bones the need; Not for massed demonstration, or flowing rhetoric, or symbolic ritual," the statement says, "but for a personal change of heart corporately shared, a renewal to recreate in us the sense of what it is to be people together, and to share a hope for the survival of the human family and spirit."

At 8 p.m. Saturday the end of the fast will be marked by a gathering of interested participants at the Lutheran Center, 532 University Ave., Missoula.

"The meeting will include a discussion on some of the present concerns in regard to peace movements," Rev. Nelson said.

"The peace issue is endangered of being watered down and lost," said Rev. Nelson. "It is related to every other significant national issue, for example, racism, ecology and poverty. If this country doesn't take significant and drastic steps to redirect itself, it will be headed for disaster."