Rev. Max Lafser...Resume Information

Max has been chairman of the board of directors of the Center for International dialogue since 1989. Familiar with the work of the Center since it's inception, he was seleced in 1987 as one of six religious delegates to an International Inter-religious conference hosted by the Russian Orthodox Church held in Moscow where he chaired a roundtable dialogue on Religion, Atheism and Spirituality.

Rev. Lafser chaired the Religious Task Force during the first Soviet-American Citizens Summit, a New Way of Thinking" held in Washington, D.C. in 1988 and was co- cocordinator of Soviet American Citizens Summit II, "Restoring the Global Environmen,t" held in Moscow January 1990

.Through out the 1990's Max and his wife, Rama Vernon organized and taught Conflict Resolutions series drawing upon the talent and background from a number of people from Ireland, Russia, Costa Rica and Israel. These seminars were first given in the Soviet Union between officials in the Republics of Azerbiajan and Armenia, Georgia and the Ukraine.

Max and Rama began teaching Conflict Resolution classes here in the United States, and taught a two year course in Santa Fe New Mexico. Memebers of that original class have gone on to teach in Switzerland and the Middle East.

Rev. Lafser was ordained in 1971/ and has served as Senior minister in a number of metropolitan churches in

the United States. As a former member of the board of the Association of Unity Churces, he helped develop a national liaison team for troubled ministries including crises intervention, church management, public relations and administrative procedures.

Max has served on a number of international religious committees. He was twice elected to the Association of Unity Churches Executive Committee where he served for eight years, two years as Vice President and one year as President. He has led seminars in human relations, the art of negotiations and has written a number of periodicals and articles for Religious publications and Magesterian, a new magazine of Russia and the Commonwealth in the earlly 90's

During the Gulf War, Rev. Lafser was appointed chair of the not-for-profit, Arab-American Citizens committee and the Gulf Humanitarian Relief Fund in Seattle that gave aid for the Kurdish refugees and the civilian victims of Iraq. Rev. Lafser has taken a number of trips to Israel and the Occupied Territories in the 90's establishing close working relations with Israeli and Arab leaders, institutions and citizens groups. He was instrumental in the development of programs in ecology, citizen exchanges, and conflict resolution.

In august 1991 Max chaired a seminar in Washington, D.C. co-sponsored by Center for International Dialogue and the Ethiopian Research Council of Washington, D.C. As a result, CID was asked to represent a Peace and National Reconciliation Proposal to the Interim Government of Ethiopia. The proposal was accepted by the membbers of the Ethioian Research Council and was sent to the Government ofEthiopia.

Max grew up in the Northwest, attended the University of Washington before attending Unity School of Christianity, Lee's Summit, Mo.

Over the last fifteen years Rev Lafser has served a number of troubled ministries before returning to Bellevue Washington where he retired from full time ministry this last June.   He is working as an intrium minister for West Sound Unity Church in Bremerton Washington.

He and Rama continue to teach Conflict Resolution and Peace Studies as their personal commitment to a healthy world. They live in Gig Harbor Washington.

Max grew up in Unity. His grandparents knew the Fillmores and his mother raised he and his brothers in the Unity church in Seattle, Washington. Max went to Unity School in 1961 and worked in Silent Unity in the Prayer ministry and was Secretary to James Dillet Freeman for about a year. As he often says.."Those early years of Unity training set the course for his life's work and for the abilitiy to hold to the truth for humanity in the midst of the appearances of hostility and war."