

Jemez Principles

Adapted by TIPL

#1 Be Inclusive

If we hope to achieve just societies that include all people in decision-making and assure that all people have an equitable share of the wealth and the work of this world, then we must work to build that kind of inclusiveness into our own movement in order to develop alternative policies and institutions to the treaties policies under neo-liberalism.

This requires more than tokenism, it cannot be achieved without diversity at the planning table, in staffing, and in coordination. It may delay achievement of other important goals, it will require discussion, hard work, patience, and advance planning. It may involve conflict, but through this conflict, we can learn better ways of working together. It's about building alternative institutions, movement building, and not compromising out in order to be accepted into the anti-globalization club.

TIPL upholds moving toward a just society that includes all people in decision-making and assures that all people have an equitable share of the wealth and the work of this world. We recognize that we must build that kind of inclusiveness into the way we fulfill our mission so that we can learn from our experiences of inclusiveness to help grow a just society.

This cannot be achieved without diversity in planning and leadership. It may delay achievement of other important goals, it will require discussion, hard work, patience, and forethought. It may involve conflict, but through this conflict, we can learn better ways of working together. We want to be part of the transformative earth care and justice movement through which we can learn to love and live with one another on our beloved earth.

TIPL has several opportunities to practice inclusivity:

- Chapters can encourage underrepresented faith traditions to partner with TIPL.
- The Steering Committee can recruit new members who belong to faith groups outside of the mainline Protestant churches and/or which serve primarily non-European demographics.
- TIPL interfaith event planners can intentionally recruit participants who belong to faith groups outside of the mainline Protestant churches and/or which serve primarily non-European demographics.
- TIPL can create opportunities to engage those who disagree with TIPL's mission to keep communication bridges open.

#2 Emphasize Bottom-Up Organizing

To succeed, it is important to reach out into new constituencies, and to reach within all levels of leadership and membership base of the organizations that are already involved in our networks. We must be continually building and strengthening a base which provides our credibility, our strategies, mobilizations, leadership development, and the energy for the work we must do daily.

TIPL offers opportunities for people of faith to individually and collectively witness their care for the earth and others, manifesting the primary moral duty to do unto others as we would have them do unto us. We persistently reach out to other people of faith who align themselves with our mission of caring for the earth and others. We reach out to new faith group partners, faithful people of our faith group partners, and to all people of faith within our networks and communities. We must continually build and strengthen the collective spiritual force of faithful people to develop our credibility, our strategies, mobilizations, leadership development, and the energy for the work we must do daily.

#3 Let People Speak for Themselves

We must be sure that relevant voices of people directly affected are heard. Ways must be provided for spokespersons to represent and be responsible to the affected constituencies. It is important for organizations to clarify their roles, and who they represent, and to assure accountability within our structures.

While our current efforts do not seem to speak to this principle, it is an aspirational statement that may guide us in the future. Within this principle is a theme of inclusiveness, critical to our engagement of our faith group partners.

#4 Work Together in Solidarity and Mutuality

Groups working on similar issues with compatible visions should consciously act in solidarity, mutuality and support each other's work. In the long run, a more significant step is to incorporate the goals and values of other groups with your own work, in order to build strong relationships. For instance, in the long run, it is more important that labor unions and community economic development projects include the issue of environmental sustainability in their own strategies, rather than just lending support to the environmental organizations. So communications, strategies and resource sharing is critical, to help us see our connections and build on these.

TIPL moves toward solidarity with other groups, which work on similar issues and share compatible visions. We commit to developing our capacities to act in solidarity and mutuality

and to support the good work being done by other organizations. In order to build strong relationships, we incorporate the goals and values of other groups in our own work. For instance, we include the issues of climate justice for those least responsible for climate change in our own strategies rather than just lending support to justice organizations. Sharing of communications, strategies, and resources are critical to help us recognize and understand our interconnections and build on them.

#5 Build Just Relationships Among Ourselves

We need to treat each other with justice and respect, both on an individual and an organizational level, in this country and across borders. Defining and developing “just relationships” will be a process that won’t happen overnight. It must include clarity about decision-making, sharing strategies, and resource distribution. The process must also include tolerance as well as devotion to meeting agreed-upon goals. There are clearly many skills necessary to succeed, and we need to determine the ways for those with different skills to coordinate and be accountable to one another.

TIPL: as is.

#6 Commitment to Self-Transformation

As we change societies, we must change from operating on the mode of individualism to community-centeredness. We must “walk our talk.” We must be the values that we say we’re struggling for and we must be justice, be peace, be community.

TIPL: as is.