

## Introduction (20 page version)

to “Invitation Package for Possible Board of Advisors (at [www.cpcsc.info](http://www.cpcsc.info) )”  
[the Community Peacebuilding and Cultural Sustainability (CPCS) Initiative]

We are at a critical point in the evolution of life on planet Earth.

This “Invitation Package” document is a compilation of observations from a wide range of vantage points, which provides both a “big picture” assessment of the critical point we are at, and more than enough evidence that we have the resources to overcome the challenges of our times. Never before in the history of life on planet Earth has there been so many opportunities for redemption. This “Invitation Package” document is an invitation for people in communities around the world to re-discover both the treasured wisdom of 5,000 years of human experience, and revitalize and re-create the experience of working together for the greater good.

This writer advocates for a combination of preliminary surveys to 150 local leaders (as preparation for Community Visioning Initiatives), time-intensive Community Visioning Initiatives supported by many “Community Teaching and Learning Centers” (offering workshops suggested by the preliminary surveys), and “sister community” relationships as a starting point for accelerating solution-oriented activity, and creating more “close-knit” communities...communities with a healthy appreciation for each others strengths, communities with a well-developed capacity to resolve even the most difficult challenges— and communities which demonstrate a high level of compassion for their fellow human beings.

This “Invitation” document is an example of an overview-of-challenges-and-solutions resource which could be made accessible in Community Teaching and Learning Centers created to support an ongoing Community Visioning Initiative. Readers are invited to think of other resources which might be appropriate for such Community Teaching and Learning Centers as they explore this document.

There are three more sections in this introduction:

- A. In this “Invitation Package” document, readers will find—
- B. This 589 page document is an invitation to—
- C. This “Invitation Package” document can encourage awareness and insights relating to many critical issues, and accelerate many different kinds of solution-oriented activity. Here are examples of some hoped for outcomes—

This writer believes there is much positive tipping point activity which can “grow” out of this “Invitation Package”. Of the many hoped for outcomes that might result from sharing this document, this writer would like to identify two outcomes which are top priority on his solution list:

- 1) widespread public discourse examining both the need—and the potential—of 1000 Community Visioning Initiatives (or some similar kind of collaborative problem solving/stakeholder engagement processes that encourage maximum involvement of citizens and residents, in as many communities as possible) as a way of accelerating positive action on the challenges of our times
- 2) clearinghouse websites for both Community Visioning Initiatives (or community wide collaborative problem solving/stakeholder engagement processes) and Community Teaching and Learning Centers (Neighborhood Learning Centers). The sharing of Community Visioning Initiative experiences and

Community Teaching and Learning Center experiences through such clearinghouse websites would be a key (if we will use it) to making the most of the lessons that can be learned from Community Visioning Initiative and Community Teaching and Learning Center experiences in communities around the world.

A. In this “Invitation Package” document, readers will find—

1) A long Table of Contents (27 pages) in Appendix 6 (p. 551), which can serve as a kind of Executive Summary

2) Summary observations on the challenges of our times, from sources such as Lester R. Brown of Earth Policy Institute, and the Leadership Council of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (A Global Initiative for the United Nations):

(Note: Since passages quoted in this 20 page Introduction also occur in other locations in the “Invitation” document, source references were only provided in those other locations (which readers can easily find using “key word” searches.)

a) From Lester R. Brown (“World on the Edge”) (January, 2011)

“We are facing issues of near-overwhelming complexity and unprecedented urgency.”

“The new reality is that the world is only one poor harvest away from chaos. It is time to redefine security.”

Half the world’s people live in countries where water tables are falling as aquifers are being depleted. And since 70 percent of world water use is for irrigation, water shortages can quickly translate into food shortages.”

b) From the Leadership Council of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (A Global Initiative for the United Nations)(on the subject of global warming mitigation):

“Achieving such a deep transformation of the energy, industrial, and agricultural systems over the next few decades will represent one of the greatest technical, organizational, and financing challenges that humanity has faced.” (from “An Action Agenda for Sustainable Development: Report for the UN Secretary-General”) (October, 2013)

3) More than enough evidence that we have the resources necessary to overcome the challenges of our times:

A summary of “We have the resources” theme (in Appendix 7) includes reference to:

a) The 29 organizations, businesses and initiatives described in the “Solution-Oriented Pathways” section of this “Invitation” document represent only a tiny fraction of the organizations, businesses, and initiatives working along pathways that make significant contributions to a peaceful and sustainable future

b) Descriptions of 272 People Being Invited to be on the Board of Advisors for the CPCS Initiative—This list of descriptions provides more than enough evidence that truly inspiring contributions of genuine goodwill are being generated in a variety of ways—and in a variety of circumstances—by countless numbers of people in communities around the world.

c) 125 fields of activity related to peacebuilding, community revitalization, and ecological sustainability efforts—evidence that there are countless number of “things people can do in the everyday circumstances of their lives” which will contribute to peacebuilding, community revitalization, and ecological sustainability efforts, in our own communities and regions—and in other parts of the world.

d) Some observations on how 1000 Community Visioning Initiatives might be funded...

A rough estimate by this writer for a time-intensive (year or more) Community Visioning Initiative (introduced by Preliminary Surveys, and supported by many Community Teaching and Learning Centers) is \$10 million (10 million in U.S. dollars).

Thus, 1000 Community Visioning Initiatives, in communities around the world, would cost \$10 billion.

Some selected observations--

i) \$10 billion is only .005% of the \$207 trillion in personal wealth held by the richest 10 percent.

ii) \$10 billion is only .57% (a little more than half of 1%) of \$1,750 billion in military expenditures in 2012.

iii) \$10 billion is 1.8% of (est.) \$557 billion in worldwide advertising spending in 2012.

[Note (repeated as a reminder): Since passages quoted in this 20 page Introduction also occur in other locations in the “Invitation” document, source references were only provided in those other locations (which readers can easily find using “key word” searches.)]

#### 4) Valuable insights from a multitude of sources throughout the document

a) “...every article in the bazaar has moral and spiritual values attached to it...”

b) “... there are truths which none can be free to ignore, if one is to have that wisdom through which life can become useful. These are the truths concerning the structures of the good life and concerning the factual conditions by which it may be achieved....”

c) “Oh! What a tangled web we weave, when first we practice to deceive.”

#### 5) Numerous statistics associated with critical challenges, from highly reliable sources

a) U.S. Government Debt, Liabilities, and Unfunded Obligations—\$67.7 trillion

- b) "...we are still perfectly on track for a temperature increase increase up to 5.3 degrees C" (9.5 F°)..."  
[Dr. Fatih Birol (Chief Economist, International Energy Agency)]
- c) "Some might assume that bond markets are shielded from the effects of climate change, ecosystem degradation, and water scarcity. With more than \$40 trillion of sovereign debt in global markets at any given time, that is a very high-risk game." [Achim Steiner (under-Secretary General, United Nations and Executive Director of United Nations Environmental Programme)]
- d) "The report shows that emissions should peak at 44 GtCO<sub>2</sub>e by 2020 and fall to 22GtCO<sub>2</sub>e by 2050 to stay within a 2C target, but under a business-as-usual scenario, which includes no emissions pledges, emissions would reach 59 GtCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2020." (United Nations Environment Programme "Gap Report"; November 5, 2013)
- e) "The world is on the brink of the 'largest bubble ever' in finance, because of the undisclosed value of high-carbon assets on companies' balance sheets, and investment managers who fail to take account of the risks are failing in their fiduciary duty to shareholders and investors, Al Gore and his investment partner, David Blood, have said."

6) A Reference Book Collection of Resources and Solution-Oriented Inspiration, including:

- a) "Gaia Educations' flagship curriculum is the Ecovillage Design Education course...developed over a number of years by a group of Ecovillage educators from around the world...The programme is a 4 week holistic introduction to designing sustainable settlements."/"While drawing upon best practices within ecovillages and transition settings worldwide, Gaia Education works in partnership with universities, ecovillages, government and non-government agencies and the United Nations."
- b) "Albert Bates has played a major role in the ecovillage movement as one of the organizers of the Global Ecovillage Network (GEN), and served as GEN's chairman of the board (from 2002 to 2003) and president (from 2003 to 2004). He was also the principal organizer of the Ecovillage Network of the Americas and served as its president (from 1996 to 2003). In 1994 he founded the Ecovillage Training Center, a 'whole systems immersion experience of ecovillage living.' He has taught courses in sustainable design, natural building, permaculture and technologies of the future to students from more than 50 nations."
- c) "Stakeholder Forum recently launched a new online tool to crowdsource stakeholder proposals for global goals for the post-2015 period. The Sustainable Development Goals...e-Inventory aims to help stakeholders, along with governments and intergovernmental organisations, become better informed about the wide range of proposals, expectations and evidence-based arguments on SDGs and other global goals for development being proposed as part of the post-2015 development framework."
- d) "Philip Thomas has over twenty-five years of experience working in the fields of conflict prevention, transformation, peace building and Democratic Dialogue. He has designed and facilitated hundreds of training programs across five continents and is recognized globally for his work in democratic dialogue and multi-stakeholder engagement processes. Philip has worked with heads of state and corporate executives as well as leaders of communities and indigenous groups, and a variety of civil-society and governmental organizations, from local to international."

e) “As the leader of the world’s largest humanitarian organization (World Food Programme) with approximately 15,000 staff serving about 100 million beneficiaries in 78 countries across the world, she (Ertharin Cousin) is an exceptional advocate for improving the lives of hungry people worldwide, and travels extensively to raise awareness of food insecurity and chronic malnutrition.”

f) “Dr. Chris Elias, President of the Global Development Program, leads the (Gates) foundation’s efforts in integrated and innovative delivery, finding creative new ways to ensure solutions and products get into the hands of people in developing countries who need them most. Focusing on areas with the potential for high-impact, sustainable solutions that can reach hundreds of millions of people, Dr. Elias oversees Global Development’s portfolio in Agriculture Development; Family Planning; Financial Services for the Poor; Maternal, Newborn, & Child Health; Polio; Vaccines Delivery; Water, Sanitation & Hygiene; and Special Initiatives.”

g) “At over 59 million, teachers are the largest group of trained professionals in the world. As transmitters of knowledge and community leaders, teachers are powerful catalysts for lasting global change...Teachers must therefore have a support network to provide the resources, training, tools and colleagues they need to fulfill their important role...Teachers Without Borders aims to enhance education globally by supporting local teacher leadership. TWB activities are conceived and run by educators and local leaders who best understand the requirements and goals of their colleagues and communities. (Teachers Without Borders) provides free resources and tools to help teachers around the world learn, connect, collaborate, and create online; in schools or community centers, in workshops and seminars.”

h) “Fernando Reimers focuses his research and teaching on identifying education policies that support teachers in helping low-income and marginalized children succeed academically. He teaches courses on the relationship between education policy, democratic citizenship, instructional improvement and educational innovation and social entrepreneurship...Dr. Riemers is currently serving on the Global Learning Leadership Council of the American Association of Colleges and Universities Project "General Education for a Global Century" focusing on some of the pressing issues related to global learning and undergraduate education. As co-chair of Harvard’s Advanced Leadership Initiative, he leads an Education Think Tank which convenes global education leaders to discuss solutions to aligning education systems with the development of 21st century skills.”

i) “D-Lab (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) is building a global network of innovators to design and disseminate technologies that meaningfully improve the lives of people living in poverty....Through design summits, innovation centers, business incubators, and a growing network of over 200 innovators in 20 countries, IDIN seeks to create low-cost, high-impact technologies and ventures, while simultaneously documenting and evaluating approaches to international development that value local ingenuity and innovation. MIT’s D-Lab will lead IDIN, a consortium of universities around the world to establish and nurture a global network of local innovators using technology to address issues facing people living in poverty.”

j) “Jeff Skoll is a philanthropist and social entrepreneur. As founder and chairman of the Skoll Foundation, Participant Media and the Skoll Global Threats Fund, he is bringing life to his vision of a sustainable world of peace and prosperity...The Skoll Foundation (founded in 1999)...quickly became the world’s largest foundation for social entrepreneurship, driving large-scale change by investing in, connecting, and celebrating social entrepreneurs and other innovators dedicated to solving the world’s most pressing problems. Its flagship program, the Skoll Awards for Social Entrepreneurship, currently supports 85 leading social entrepreneurs whose extraordinary work serves the neediest populations in

over 100 countries. The Skoll Foundation also co-produces the annual Skoll World Forum on Social Entrepreneurship with the Skoll Centre for Social Entrepreneurship at the Saïd Business School at the University of Oxford.”

7) (Again) Valuable insights from a multitude of sources throughout the document

a) “Working at the subsystem level without addressing the forces at the larger systemic level that undermine the work at the subsystem level will not lead to any durable outcome.”

(Dr. Hizkias Assefa)

b) “The peace processes that work are those that are founded on a broad spectrum of initiatives in which citizens play a full role.” (Andy Carl)

c) “Like the secular intellectuals, activists tend to see all malevolence as being caused by ‘them’--the ‘system’--without understanding how these negative factors also operate within ourselves.... The opposite view—that radical transformation of society requires personal and spiritual change first or at least simultaneously—has been accepted by Buddhists and many other religious adherents for more than 2,500 years. Those who want to change society must understand the inner dimensions of change. It is this sense of personal transformation that religion can provide.” (Sulak Sivaraksa)

8) More Numerous statistics associated with critical challenges, from highly reliable sources

a) World Population Milestones

“In 1804, the world population was 1 billion.  
In 1927, the world population was 2 billion (123 years later).  
In 1960, the world population was 3 billion (33 years later).  
In 1974, the world population was 4 billion (14 years later).  
In 1987, the world population was 5 billion (13 years later).  
In 1999, the world population was 6 billion (12 years later).  
In 2011, the world population was 7 billion (12 years later).”

“As of October 17, 2013 at 21:16 UTC (-4), the world population was estimated to be 7,118,361,550.”

b) “Half the world’s seven billion people live in cities, and roughly three-quarters of economic activity is urban. Cities are also home to extreme deprivation and environmental degradation with one billion people living in slums.”

c) “ London – October 3rd 2013: An international panel of marine scientists is demanding urgent remedies to halt ocean degradation based on findings that the rate, speed and impacts of change in the global ocean are greater, faster and more imminent than previously thought.”

d) “For almost 3 billion people, wood is the main energy source for heating and cooking...”/“People in industrialized countries comprise only about 20% of the global population, yet they consume 81% of the world’s paper and 76% of its timber.”/ Deforestation contributes more to global greenhouse gas emissions than the world’s entire transport sector./ “By 2001 the rainforest areas of Brazil were reduced by a fifth (respect of 1970), to around 4,000,000 km<sup>2</sup>; the ground cleared was mainly destined for cattle

pasture - Brazil is the world's largest exporter of beef with almost 200,000,000 head of cattle."/..."the last remaining rainforests could be consumed in less than 40 years"

e) "53% of the world's fisheries are fully exploited, and 32% are overexploited, depleted, or recovering from depletion."

f) "Half the world's people live in countries where water tables are falling as aquifers are being depleted. And since 70 percent of world water use is for irrigation, water shortages can quickly translate into food shortages."

g) "...the extraordinary increase in global coal consumption the past decade is partly due to the OECD offshoring its own industrial production. How are most consumer goods made? Using electricity in developing world manufacturing centers, generated by coal. Only a very small portion of the global public is aware that global coal consumption has advanced by over 50% in the past decade. "

h) Global media and entertainment industry revenues for 2012: nearly \$1,629 trillion

i) Worldwide Advertising Spending (2012)--\$557 billion  
United States Advertising Spending (2012)--\$139.5 billion

j) "...in 1997 the World Health Organization (WHO) formally recognized obesity as a global epidemic."/ "One of the main reasons Americans eat as poorly as we do may be the ubiquity of low-priced, unhealthy foods and their promotion...we are surrounded with tempting options that aren't good for us."/ "65 percent of the world's population live in countries where overweight and obesity kills more people than underweight and malnutrition."

k) "Undernutrition contributes to 2.6 million deaths of children under five each year - one third of the global total."/ "More than 11 million children die each year from preventable health issues such as malaria, diarrhea and pneumonia."/ "Hunger and malnutrition are in fact the number one risk to health worldwide — greater than AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined."/ "12 percent of the world's population uses 85 percent of its water."/ "18 countries, containing half the world's people, are overpumping their aquifers."

l) "About 1/3 of the food produced in the world for human consumption every year; approximately 1.3 billion tonnes gets lost or wasted. Industrialized and developing countries waste roughly the same quantities of food – respectively 670 and 630 million tonnes."/ "New Yorkers produce 600,000 of food waste per year."/ "Supermarkets, restaurants and other nonresidential establishments in Montgomery County throw away 96 million pounds of food a year."

m) "Tobacco use is the world's leading cause of preventable death, according to the World Health Organization."/ "...every year tobacco kills more Americans than did World War II — more than AIDS, cocaine, heroin, alcohol, vehicular accidents, homicide and suicide combined."/ "According to The Tobacco Atlas, countries do not profit economically from tobacco production and consumption – in fact, they suffer great financial harm."

n) "Alcohol is the world's third largest risk factor for disease burden..."/ The harmful use of alcohol is a global problem which compromises both individual and social development. It results in 2.5 million deaths each year. It also causes harm far beyond the physical and psychological health of the drinker. It harms the well-being and health of people around the drinker. An intoxicated person can harm others

or put them at risk of traffic accidents or violent behaviour, or negatively affect co-workers, relatives, friends or strangers. Thus, the impact of the harmful use of alcohol reaches deep into society.”/”Alcohol in America is big business. We spent \$162 billion buying beer, wine and liquor in 2011.”

o) “...gambling activities generated US\$ 419 billion in revenues across the world in 2011.”/”In 2011 the world’s lotteries had the highest share of gambling revenues, accounting for 28.4% of the total.”/State Lotteries in the United States—“11 states collecting more revenue from their state lottery than from their state corporate income tax during FY2009.”

p) “Total world military expenditure in 2012 was \$1.75 trillion. This is equivalent to 2.5 per cent of global GDP.”/Global Drugs and Global Arms Trade--“The global drugs trade and the global arms trade are integral to violence in both developing and industrialized countries. Even modest progress on either front will contribute to reducing the amount and degree of violence suffered by millions of people. To date, however—and despite their high profile in the world arena—no solutions seem to be in sight for these problems.”/Intentional Homicides, Worldwide (2010)—468,000/Major Causes of Death, 20<sup>th</sup> Century (by “Humanity”)—980 million/Violence on Television—“Number of violent acts seen of TV by age 18: 150,000”

9) A 64 page section titled Large Cities (with a Population of 1 million or more) vs. Villages, Towns, and Small Cities”, with a special focus on the question: Which models for human settlements are more likely to be ecologically sustainable, more likely to achieve carbon neutral economies—and more likely to achieve resolutions to most or all of the other challenges brought forward in this “Invitation” document?

10) A 78 page section titled “A Constellation of Initiatives Approach to Collaborative Problem Solving and Citizen Peacebuilding”, which includes the “1000 Community Visioning Initiatives” Proposal, and which provides much practical detail on how solution-oriented narratives can be “grown” by community residents—so that such narratives are much more likely to be aware of, and responsive to, local specific needs and challenges; much more likely to maximize citizen participation and create solution-oriented momentum; and much more likely to inspire commitments of time, energy, and financial support.

Selected highlights from Section VII. “A Constellation of Initiatives Approach...”

a) Community Visioning Initiatives

i) This writer advocates for a combination of preliminary surveys to 150 local leaders (as preparation for Community Visioning Initiatives), time-intensive Community Visioning Initiatives supported by many “Community Teaching and Learning Centers” (offering workshops suggested by the preliminary surveys), and “sister community” relationships as a starting point for accelerating solution-oriented activity, and creating more “close-knit” communities.

ii)) This writer’s interest in Community Visioning Initiatives was inspired instantly when, in 1994, he watched a documentary titled [“Chattanooga: A Community With A Vision”](#) (13 minutes). The video documents two very successful Community Visioning Initiatives organized by the non-profit organization Chattanooga Venture (Chattanooga, Tennessee USA)—one in 1984, and a follow-up in 1993. The 1984 Chattanooga Community Visioning Project (“Vision 2000”), attracted more than 1,700 participants, and produced 40 community goals—which resulted in the implementation of 223 projects and programs, the creation of 1,300 permanent jobs, and a total financial investment of 793 million dollars.

iii) There needs to be enough people who believe that 1000 Community Visioning Initiatives in communities around the world would only be a beginning—and who believe that the “narratives” which will inspire communities with a multitude of identities (differences in language, cultural background, economic circumstances, and belief systems) will have to be “grown” from within the community.

#### b) Preliminary Surveys

i) Preliminary surveys to at least 150 key leaders can provide evidence of the need for a visioning initiative, and provide a key starting point for topics to cover in workshops at Community Teaching and Learning Centers.

ii) When preliminary surveys are sent to 150 key leaders in a variety of fields of activity in local communities—as preparation for Community Visioning Initiatives—ordinary citizens are going to look very carefully at the responses such leaders make to questions like “What are our most difficult challenges?” and “What are our most valuable resources?”. Whether we will have extreme difficulties managing the challenges ahead, or whether we will be a part of an unprecedented effort of international collaboration and solution-oriented momentum may—to a significant degree—depend on how the leaders of local institutions which people have relied upon for centuries decide to act at this critical time.

iii) [“15 Sample Preliminary Survey Questions”](#)—(also in Appendix 2)

iv) Additional Questions (first two are examples of questions which came up while working on this document):

>from “Indicator” section (Section I)

% of people who have been asked in a local community survey what should be done with the remaining inventories of technically and economically recoverable oil reserves

>from “The Threat of Global Warming...” subsection in Section IV “Critical Challenges...”

“Developing countries seek the same modern conveniences—dishwashers, televisions, computers, and cars—enjoyed by the developed world and which are currently powered mostly by fossil fuels. We can imagine that they can improve their standard of living without increasing their fossil fuel consumption, but what do we have to point to in order to show that it can be done?.... This is why I am extremely skeptical that carbon emissions will be reined in.”

>from Appendix 3 “Notes on Evaluating Community Visioning Initiatives”

Evaluation of action plans developed in response to the 20 most frequently identified challenges

--Please put a check next to the statement below which most closely represents your view of the community’s plans to resolve (Ex.) the threat of global warming?

Plans

I believe we have a relevant, practical, and doable action plan for resolving this challenge.

- \_\_\_ I believe we are taking the steps necessary to develop a relevant, practical, and doable action plans for resolving this challenge.
- \_\_\_ I am not sure if we know how to resolve this challenge.
- \_\_\_ I do not believe we know how to resolve this challenge.

c) Community Teaching and Learning Centers (Neighborhood Learning Centers)

i) Creating the knowledge base and skill sets necessary to resolve the challenges of our times will require encouraging as much formal and informal meetings as possible between neighbors—and people living in the same local community. Creating many Community Teaching and Learning Centers can provide places—in local neighborhoods—for discussion, information sharing, mutual support and encouragement, fellowship and friendship—so that the exchanging of information and resources will also include the building of a close-knit community of people with a healthy appreciation for each others strengths.

ii) Six subsections on the subject of Community Teaching and Learning Centers

--Workshop Content at Community Teaching and Learning Centers (CTLCs)—especially during an ongoing Community Visioning Initiative (CVI) (p. 454)

--Community Teaching and Learning Centers as a multi-purpose support center for implementing Community Visioning Initiatives (CVIs) (p. 462)

--Community Teaching and Learning Centers as a neighborhood meeting place (p. 466)

--Community Teaching and Learning Centers as a critical part of a low cost lifelong learning education system (which would include questionnaires and surveys, neighborhood learning centers and neighborhood learning networks, and Community Visioning Initiatives). (p. 467)

--Neighborhood Learning Centers as central locations for listings of employment opportunities (p. 474)

iii) Key Role for Philanthropy

“In 1912, Rosenwald provided funds for a pilot program involving six new small schools in rural Alabama, which were designed, constructed and opened in 1913 and 1914 and overseen by Tuskegee; the model proved successful. Rosenwald (then) established The Rosenwald Fund. The school building program was one of its largest programs. Using state-of-the-art architectural plans initially drawn by professors at Tuskegee Institute, the Rosenwald Fund spent over four million dollars to help build 4,977 schools, 217 teachers' homes, and 163 shop buildings in 883 counties in 15 states, from Maryland to Texas. The Rosenwald Fund used a system of matching grants, and black communities raised more than \$4.7 million to aid the construction. These schools became known as Rosenwald Schools. The local schools were a source of much community pride and were of priceless value to African-American families when poverty and segregation limited their children's chances. By 1932, the facilities could accommodate one third of all African American children in Southern U.S. schools.”

#### d) Maximizing Employment

Six Subsections on the subject of Maximizing Employment

i) Surely, there will be work to do.... (p. 480)

ii) Preliminary surveys in preparation for Community Visioning Initiatives, the actual implementation of Community Visioning Initiatives, and affordable and accessible education in support of Community Visioning Initiatives (at “Community Teaching and Learning Centers”) can result in apprenticeships, internships, volunteer opportunities, and training in key fields of activity—all of which would minimize “transformation unemployment”. (p. 481)

iii) Summary Presentations and Job Fairs—Step 12 from the document “[A 15 Step Outline for a Community Visioning Initiative](#)” (also in Appendix 1) (p.481)

iv) The “1000 Community Visioning Initiative” Proposal—helping people to deliberately channel their time, energy, and money into the creation of “ways of earning a living” which are directly related to resolving high priority challenges

v) Many people can realize the wisdom of deliberately focusing the way they spend their time, energy, and money. The result can be a deliberate increase in the “ways of earning a living” which are directly related to overcoming the challenges identified by residents as priority challenges. As the ancient Chinese proverb says: “Many hands make much work light.” (p.486)

vi) One of the most persistent ironies in life is that with so many opportunities to provide real assistance to fellow human beings, there are still many, many people in this world who cannot find a “way to earn a living” providing such assistance.... There is the potential—and the need—to overcome such ironies. (p. 487)

#### e) Local Currency

The job fairs which come at the end of the Community Visioning Initiative process provide opportunities for all key stakeholders in the community (businesses, organizations, institutions, government, etc) to demonstrate their upgraded awareness—and their interest in the welfare of the community—by offering and facilitating new employment opportunities.

One possible addition to this kind of citizen participation approach can be that people (especially unemployed people) who deliberately direct their investments of time, energy, and money towards assisting the Community Visioning process—and supporting and sustaining the solutions identified by the Community Visioning Initiative—could receive, as encouragement, local currency. Such local currency can, in its turn, be spent in ways which are particularly helpful to building stable and sustainable local economies.

#### f) Many Community Service Opportunities for Local Newspapers

There are many opportunities for local newspapers to contribute very valuable community services in the planning, implementation, evaluation, and follow up stages associated with Community Visioning Initiatives. Here is a list of some of the community services local newspapers could contribute:

- i) provide information about the potential of Community Visioning Initiatives
- ii) advocate for the implementation of Community Visioning Initiatives
- iii) be directly involved in making Preliminary Surveys accessible, provide in-depth coverage of the response compilation process to assure credibility, and provide a variety of summary and analysis of the responses
- iv) provide ongoing public access to details of each stage of the Community Visioning process
- v) provide ongoing public access to details of workshops and other educational experiences at “Community Teaching and Learning Centers”
- vi) report on inspirational role models and organizations in key fields of activity, which will assist the process of creating apprenticeships, internships, volunteer opportunities, and training.

g) Interfaith Peacebuilding—“24/7 Peace Vigils”

A possible goal for participating traditions would be to have one member participating in the Peace Vigil at all times (24/7)(in such time intervals as they choose). *With an emphasis on silence*, participants could silently recite prayers for peace, forgiveness, and reconciliation... and/or carry on with any kind of silent practice or silent spiritual discipline which is relevant and appropriate for a sacred space dedicated to cultivating world peace.

Many positive and constructive results could be realized from serious efforts to implement this idea, including:

- i) The discipline required for each tradition to maintain a presence would sharpen the spiritual (and other) practices of many participants
- ii) Much good fellowship and friendship could be created by such a project—fellowship and friendship which could result in many more common service-oriented projects, and much improved interfaith relations.

B. This 589 page document is an invitation to—

- 1) the 272 people listed in Section III “List of People Being Formally Invited to Join CPCS Initiative Board of Advisors”

This document is a way of presenting evidence of both the need—and the potential—of the “Constellations of Initiatives” approach outlined in Section VII. “A Constellation of Initiatives Approach to Collaborative Problem Solving and Citizen Peacebuilding”. While there will also be formal, more private, invitations made—this document has made invitations public here to illustrate just how much evidence there is that we have the resources necessary to overcome the challenges of our times. Whether or not attention and assistance are given specifically to the “Community Peacebuilding and

Cultural Sustainability” Initiative is of even lesser than secondary importance to the idea of creating multiplier effects of a positive nature with stakeholder engagement processes (in a variety of forms) which are designed to maximize citizen participation. Even further, consider this summary statement from a document titled “Peacebuilding in its Most Compassionate Form” (2007)(by this writer):

“Peacebuilding in its most compassionate form is not a competitive field of activity. Viewed in this light, the most valuable forms of peacebuilding will nurture, support, and sustain the development of an infinite variety of other forms of peacebuilding, community revitalization, and ecologically sustainability initiatives. The IPCR Initiative is an effort to nurture, support, and sustain peacebuilding in its most compassionate form.”

Here, in this context, the same sense of non-competitiveness applies. Thus, while it is much simpler, in a title, or section heading, to say “inviting people to join CPCS Initiative Board of Advisors”, what is much more important is for not only those 272 people listed in Section III, but citizens from every variety of circumstances who might read this, to think of this “invitation package” as an invitation to become involved (or increase involvement) in creating collaborative problem solving processes in their own communities. Find what inspiration you can from this “Invitation Package” resource, and use it to make a positive contribution somewhere. We are going to need all the resources, knowledge, and skills each one of us has, and we are going to need to make the best efforts we can at working together, if we are going to succeed at resolving the challenges ahead of us.

Thus, the CPCS Initiative “Copyright Policy” reads:

In light of the urgent need to build bridges and increase collaboration between diverse communities of people, all of the documents, information, resources, etc. created by The CPCS Initiative are viewed as resources which ought to be made as accessible as possible to people who can make good use of them. Therefore, all such documents and information (including this document) may be reproduced without permission, and distributed in any way the user believes will be a positive contribution to resolving the challenges of our times. [Please note: Quotes, statistics, and other copyrighted material used in CPCS documents have been appropriately attributed to their copyrighted sources. Readers may thus be assured that The CPCS Initiative encourages and supports the proper referencing of copyrighted material to their copyrighted sources.]

And thus, the following sequence of thoughts (which is also part of the subsection “Maximizing Employment—Job Fairs, Employment Listings at CTLCs, Local Currency”, and the subsection “9 different ways of looking at where 10 billion dollars might come from, so that 1000 communities could carry out Community Visioning Initiatives”):

The challenges of our times are not something the experts will resolve while the rest of us are doing something else.

Everyone is involved when it comes to determining the markets which supply the “ways of earning a living”.

All of us have important responsibilities associated with resolving a significant number of very serious challenges in the months and years ahead.

The ways we “invest” our time, energy, and money have a direct impact on the “ways of earning a living” that are available.

The investments of time, energy, and money that each of us make in our everyday circumstances becomes the larger economy.

People who are not sufficiently informed about critical issues are everywhere, and they are investing their time, energy, and money—voting—all the time.

There are countless numbers of “things people can do in the everyday circumstances of their lives” which will contribute to peacebuilding, community revitalization, and ecological sustainability efforts, in their own communities and regions—and in other parts of the world.

Many people can realize the wisdom of deliberately focusing the way they spend their time, energy, and money. The result can be a deliberate increase in the “ways of earning a living” which are directly related to overcoming the challenges identified by residents as priority challenges. As the ancient Chinese proverb says: “Many hands make much work light.”

The result can be that there are countless “ways to earn a living” which contribute to the peacebuilding, community revitalization, and ecological sustainability efforts necessary to overcome the challenges of our times.

Somehow or other, we need to realize how much we need to be learning so that we can be part of the solutions... and how much we really need to be on the same side, helping each other.

C. This “Invitation Package” document can encourage awareness and insights relating to many critical issues, and accelerate many different kinds of solution-oriented activity. Here are examples of some hoped for outcomes:

1) widespread public discourse examining both the need—and the potential—of 1000 Community Visioning Initiatives (or some similar kind of collaborative problem solving/stakeholder engagement processes which maximize citizen participation, in as many communities as possible) as a way of accelerating positive action on the challenges of our times

2) clearinghouse websites for both Community Visioning Initiatives (or community wide collaborative problem solving/stakeholder engagement processes) and Community Teaching and Learning Centers (Neighborhood Learning Centers). The sharing of Community Visioning Initiative experiences and Community Teaching and Learning Center experiences through the clearinghouse websites would be a key (if we will use it) to making the most of the lessons that can be learned from Community Visioning Initiative and Community Teaching and Learning Center experiences in communities around the world.

3) Models for regional specific and community specific Discussion Forums to supplement Community Visioning Initiatives

This writer is hoping that this “Invitation Package” document—and resources at the [www.cpcsc.info](http://www.cpcsc.info) website—can generate discussion among instructors, students, practitioners, etc which would raise the quality of ideas, and practical application, in many topic areas including: critical challenges assessment;

preliminary survey questionnaire design; stakeholder engagement; low cost lifelong learning systems; community service components of local news media; community economics/local sustainability business networks; community revolving loans/microfinance; low impact transport systems; workforce development; food autonomy, food security, food sovereignty; land use reform; water supply and sewage treatment; recycling, composting, and cradle to cradle manufacturing; inspiring role models/right livelihood; mentoring and apprenticeships; local currency; sister community relationships; re-evaluating our moral compasses; and peacebuilding and non-violent conflict resolution.

To facilitate the exchange of ideas and best practices—and in addition to the Community Visioning Initiatives Clearinghouse (see <http://cpcsc.info/community-visioning-initiatives-clearinghouse/> ) and the Community Teaching and Learning Centers Clearinghouse (see <http://cpcsc.info/ctlc-clearinghouse/> ) ideas mentioned above—the “Community Peacebuilding and Cultural Sustainability” (CPCS) Initiative website also offers two Discussion Forums:

- a) “Community Peacebuilding and Cultural Sustainability” Discussion Forum—a starting point for discussing the webpage topics which make up the website, and whether or not they contribute to a definition of Community Peacebuilding and Cultural Sustainability
- b) “Neighborhood Learning Center Workshop Content “ Discussion Forum—a starting point for exploring what workshop content at neighborhood learning centers might look like if such learning centers were going to be support centers for a Community Visioning Initiative... the need for a Community Visioning Initiative grew out of responses from 150 key leaders to preliminary surveys... and a significant majority of the key leaders identified more than 5 of the ten critical challenges in “A List of Ten Critical Challenges” (see Appendix 4).

These Discussion Forums are just two examples, and it is most likely that best practices along these lines will be Discussion Forums that are regionally specific, or community specific. Creating models for regional specific and community specific Discussion Forums to supplement Community Visioning Initiatives (or other similar stakeholder engagement/collaborative problem solving processes) would thus be a hoped for outcome from use of this “Invitation Package” resource.

#### 4) Widespread efforts to re-examine and re-create educational systems

Here are three questions which such educational reform efforts might consider:

- a) There is the possibility that many educational institutions will want to contribute to educating the students needed to fill the many roles required by Community Visioning Initiatives, in anticipation that there will be an increased interest in this kind of collaborative problem solving and citizen peacebuilding approach in the future.

What would an educational curriculum for preparing survey specialists, resource coordinators for Community Teaching and Learning Centers, and organizers for Community Visioning Initiatives look like if it was to be college coursework (and experiential learning)—and what it would look like if it was to be delivered in the form of workshops at the neighborhood learning center level?

- b) Creating the knowledge base and skill sets necessary to resolve the challenges of our times will require encouraging as much formal and informal meetings as possible between neighbors—and people living in the same local community. Creating many Community Teaching and Learning Centers can

provide places—in local neighborhoods—for discussion, information sharing, mutual support and encouragement, fellowship and friendship—so that the exchanging of information and resources will also include the building of a close-knit community of people with a healthy appreciation for each others strengths.

What kind of documents will be most helpful to encouraging the discussion, information sharing, mutual support and encouragement, fellowship and friendship in such Community Teaching and Learning Centers, so that creating the knowledge base and skill sets necessary to resolve the challenges of our times will be carried out by the maximum number of participants possible?

c) What if there was to be a reversal of the urbanization trend, and a demographic shift from megacities to more ecologically sustainable villages, towns, and small cities? What kind of curriculum and experiential learning (apprenticeships, training, volunteering, etc) would be most appropriate to create the knowledge base and skill sets necessary to make such a transition?

5) A complete re-visioning, re-creation, and re-presentation of a “Community Peacebuilding and Cultural Sustainability” website (or some similar concept)

Although this writer can say with genuine sincerity that he believes the Community Peacebuilding and Cultural Sustainability (CPCS) Initiative website (at [www.cpcsc.info](http://www.cpcsc.info)) has many “seed” documents and “seed” resources relevant to launching such an initiative, the website is structurally deficient in many ways—many design and content features are inadequate or non-existent (such as images portraying solution-oriented activity). The CPCS Initiative website was the most he could accomplish with his limited resources, but he can easily imagine much more of a website presence—and easily imagine that any potential member of a CPCS Board of Advisors would also think the same. One of the desired outcomes of this document, then, could be a complete re-visioning, re-creation, and re-presentation of a “Community Peacebuilding and Cultural Sustainability” website (or some similar concept)—using the most essential inspirations from this “Invitation Package”(and other sources), and carried out by a Board of Advisors, or a group of participants in a crowdsourcing event. Again, as in the “Invitation” section of this Introduction, there need be no such thing as people confining their efforts to one exclusive website. Especially since having more websites which are created along the lines of “Community Peacebuilding and Cultural Sustainability” (using whatever other names/descriptors) will significantly increase the likelihood that some of them will prove to be “best practice” models, which many other people can learn from. We live in a very complex world, and there are many critical challenges ahead. We will need the best efforts we can make at working together if our collective efforts are going to create enough positive tipping points to change the dangerous trajectories we are now on.

6) a deeper awareness and appreciation of the existence of—and the potential for good from—the treasured wisdom of religious, spiritual, and moral traditions

especially

a) a greater appreciation of the inner dimensions of culture change

“That radical transformation of society requires personal and spiritual change first or at least simultaneously—has been accepted by Buddhists and many other religious adherents for more than 2,500 years. Those who want to change society must understand the inner dimensions of change.”

b) a greater appreciation of the need for a “limiting of desires”

“The satisfaction of one's physical needs must come at a certain point to a dead stop before it degenerates into physical decadence.”

If many people can learn to find contentment and quality of life while consuming much less, this limiting of desires at the ‘root’ will save much trouble trying to respond to the symptoms as they materialize worldwide. This is part of the ‘spiritual teachings’ element which often gets overlooked.

c) a greater appreciation that “... every article in the bazaar has moral and spiritual values attached to it...”

d) a greater appreciation of the proverb “Honesty is the best policy” (“Oh! What a tangled web we weave, when first we practice to deceive.”)

e) a greater appreciation of community life and cultural traditions which “... bring to the fore what is often hidden: how many good people there are, how many ways there are to do good, and how much happiness comes to those who extend help, as well as to those who receive it”.

f) a greater appreciation that “... there are truths which none can be free to ignore, if one is to have that wisdom through which life can become useful. These are the truths concerning the structures of the good life and concerning the factual conditions by which it may be achieved....”

7) More people who...

a) More people who believe that there are countless numbers of “things people can do in the everyday circumstances of their lives” which will contribute to peacebuilding, community revitalization, and ecological sustainability efforts, in their own communities and regions—and in other parts of the world.

b) More people who understand the importance of realizing the potential for peacebuilding in every religious, spiritual, and moral tradition, and who are (thus) fully aware of what is possible along the lines of wisdom and compassion (a reversal of the marginalization of the treasured wisdom of religious, spiritual, and moral traditions)

One way of achieving such an increase: 24/7 Peace Vigils

A possible goal for participating traditions would be to have one member participating in the Peace Vigil at all times (24/7)(in such time intervals as they choose). *With an emphasis on silence*, participants could silently recite prayers for peace, forgiveness, and reconciliation... and/or carry on with any kind of silent practice or silent spiritual discipline which is relevant and appropriate for a sacred space dedicated to cultivating world peace.

Many positive and constructive results could be realized from serious efforts to implement this idea, including:

i) The discipline required for each tradition to maintain a presence would sharpen the spiritual (and other) practices of many participants

ii) Much good fellowship and friendship could be created by such a project—fellowship and friendship which could result in many more common service-oriented projects, and much improved interfaith relations.

c) More people who have participated in “brainstorming” sessions/workshops on what key elements of cultural sustainability would best fill in the blank in the following statement--

In the best of times, even the most profound challenges can be overcome; for in the best of times, \_\_\_\_\_ is/are nurtured, supported, and sustained by family, teachers, mentors, elders, and the everyday influences of community life and cultural traditions.

d) More people who believe it is possible to create a peaceful and sustainable future

“Developing countries seek the same modern conveniences—dishwashers, televisions, computers, and cars—enjoyed by the developed world and which are currently powered mostly by fossil fuels. We can imagine that they can improve their standard of living without increasing their fossil fuel consumption, but what do we have to point to in order to show that it can be done?....”

Thus--

Less people who are worried that “the economy” will collapse if there is widespread movement from consuming material goods and ecological resources indiscriminately to discriminating carefully about use of material goods and ecological resources

and

More people who believe it is possible to create, support, and sustain communities which minimize resource requirements, maintain ecological sustainability, maintain a high level of compassion for fellow human beings— and which represent what a significant majority of community residents surveyed would describe as a high quality of life.

e) More people who believe that we have the resources necessary to carry out 1000 Community Visioning Initiatives. [This writer offers a rough estimate of \$10 million to carry out 1 (one) Community Visioning Initiative of the kind he advocates for in Section VII.]

Here are 9 different ways of looking at where 10 billion dollars might come from, so that 1000 communities could carry out Community Visioning Initiatives.

i) \$10 billion is only .005% of the \$207 trillion in personal wealth held by the richest 10 percent.

ii) \$10 billion is .07% of the \$14 trillion of “stranded carbon assets” on the books of publicly listed companies, private companies, state governments and sovereign wealth funds.

iii) \$10 billion is only .57% (a little more than half of 1%) of \$1,750 billion in military expenditures in 2012.

iv) \$10 billion is 1.8% of (est.) \$557 billion in worldwide advertising spending in 2012.

v) \$10 billion is 2.4% of the \$419 billion of worldwide gambling revenues in 2011.

vi) \$10 billion is 6% of the \$162 billion people in the United States spent on beer, wine, and liquor in 2011.

vii) If 18% of cable TV subscribers in the United States unsubscribed from cable TV, they could re-direct that money to finance 1000 Community Visioning Initiatives.

viii) Companies marketing cigarettes in the United States could use that \$10 billion per year to fund the costs of implementing 1000 Community Visioning Initiatives.

ix) “Many hands make much work light.”—The result can be that there are countless “ways to earn a living” which contribute to the peacebuilding, community revitalization, and ecological sustainability efforts necessary to overcome the challenges of our times.

f) More people who believe that “beneath the multitude of identities, (and) the differences in culture, language, ritual, and beliefs, we all desire contact that comes in forms of love, community, respect, dignity, recognition, and acknowledgment.”

g) More people who believe that we have the resources to overcome the challenges of our times

Confidence (not just confidence in financial markets, but confidence in our viability as a species) will be dimmed by a lack of clarity until there is widespread public discourse on the full dimensions of the critical challenges ahead.

Confidence will be built up when we—collectively—believe that the efforts of everyone working together is a greater force than the challenges we are facing.

A Postscript to the Introduction—On the compilation of excerpts style of this document, and on the lack of source references in the Introduction.

Here is a good place for this writer to comment on his particular preference for creating documents with many passages quoted from books, websites, articles, etc. There are three important reasons for this preference, this style of making compilations of excerpts:

1) This writer has gotten the impression, from reading commentary from many different sources, that there are many, many people who have no idea of the people and organizations who have been working for decades on some of the challenges and solutions highlighted in this “Invitation” document. That is, it seems that there are many, many people who wonder at observations made about global warming, resource depletion, public and consumer debt, unhealthy consumption patterns—and also much

solution-oriented efforts—and often reply to such observations by saying something like “Well, I have never heard anything about that before... seems like it would’ve come up in the news, and people would have been talking about it, if it was really a serious issue (or if it was really such inspiring work that they were doing).” Thus, it seems like there is a lot of serious research on challenges, and truly inspiring contributions of genuine goodwill that are simply not “coming through the mist as much as they should be.” Making a compilation of excerpts from highly credible sources on challenges and resources provides evidence of this kind of “behind-the-scenes” activity.

2) This writer has had an untraditional career, and does not have the kind of academic or professional credentials to put himself and his observations forward (and thus place the sources for his conclusions in a subordinate role). It is, in fact, the other way around for much of this document—this writer brings excerpts from many valuable sources forward, so that what might seem like “outside the box” observations (see “not coming through the mist” impression in previous paragraph) are clearly attributed to highly credible sources—people who have been gaining experience in their fields for decades, and who are highly respected by colleagues and other professionals in such fields.

3) There are simply many, many people doing inspiring work (on both challenges and solutions) who could be more of an inspiration to others—if there were more people who knew what such people were doing.

An Additional Note on the lack of source references in this Introduction.... For the most part, passages are quoted in the above Introduction without any footnotes, or source references. That is done to streamline the Introduction—and because every passage that is quoted in the Introduction occurs in at least one other place in the document as a whole. Since in other locations, a source reference was cited for the passage, no source reference is cited here. Readers who wish to find the source for the passages quoted in this Introduction can easily do a “key word” search of this “Invitation” document, and thus find the associated source reference.