



Br. Joseph Kilegevice, OP., Jeffrey Wagner, classical pianist, Jean Bacom-Detmer, flutist, Michael Surratt, organist

Shem Center for Interfaith Spirituality annual concert of classical music, titled, "Where All Paths Meet."  
Sunday, April 27, 2014, First United Church of Oak Park, Illinois.

*Now Let wisdom call out.  
Let understanding raise her voice.  
On the heights along the way,  
Where all paths meet, may she take her stand.*

This translation from *The Book of Proverbs 8:1-2* was the inspiration for this year's Shem Center concert of classical Music. The title, "Where All Paths Meet" is a fitting expression for what Shem Center has aspired to become since its founding over 20 years ago. In welcoming a diversity of religious and spiritual paths into a place of mutual respect, what we hold in common and what is unique about each is discovered and celebrated.

Authentic spiritual practice and the observances of faith traditions always generate respect for others no matter how dissimilar dogmas and doctrines may be. At its core, no religion teaches hatred and violence. However, a misguided interpretation of the tenets of faith can distort the essential message of compassion toward all of life taught by all faiths. When overwhelmed by disagreement and conflict, the contentious atmosphere leads to a separation from the sacred with an increasing inability to experience it in the splendor of creation as well as in art, poetry, music and sacred dance.

Shem Center seeks to provide a place of respect and hospitality where all sacred paths are welcomed; *"where wisdom takes her stand and the voice of understanding can be heard."* While respecting the precepts of the world's faith traditions, Shem Center takes a deeper journey into the spirit beneath these teachings. It is there that wisdom's voice can be heard, a voice that speaks to all people.

Br. Joseph Kilikevics, OP  
Director