THE PEACE FLAG.

MOTTO: PRO CONCORDIA LABOR.

CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
MT. PLEASANT

About the Raising of the Peace Flag

The *Pro Concordia Labor* flag – the rich symbolism of which is described opposite this page – was designed in 1897 by Countess Cora di Brazzà (1862-1944). *Pro Concordia Labor* means "**Work for Harmony**." The colors of yellow, purple, and white were chosen because no nation's flag used this color combination. The flag is a standard for cosmopolitan values – "the cementing of the loving bonds of universal brotherhood without respect to creed, nationality or color."

E.C. (Eugene Clarence) Warriner (1866-1945) was the 4th President of Central Michigan University (CMU) from 1918-1939. Warriner was actively involved in the 19th Century Peace Movement to which the *Pro Concordia Labor* flag is connected. On October 28, 1910, when he was Superintendent of Saginaw Public Schools, Warriner organized the Michigan branch of the ***American School Peace League*** (ASPL). The ASPL was a national network of public school teachers, administrators and students who were committed to peace education and the 'Peace through Law' movement which aimed at the development of law to eliminate armed conflict. The ASPL sponsored national essay competitions, distributed peace education curricula, and supplied materials for the celebration of Peace Day, May 18, which was recognized because it was the day on which the **1899 Hague Peace Conference** opened. This Conference, which occurred prior to World War I (WWI), played an important role in "organizing the world" so that states had non-violent ways to settle disputes. Throughout WW1 and afterwards, and as President of CMU, E.C. Warriner remained actively involved in the Peace Movement. Warriner died on July 20, 1945, approximately three weeks before the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

CMU first raised the Peace Flag in **May 2015** in support of an international group of women who crossed the DMZ (demilitarized zone) in order to restart peace talks between North and South Korea. CMU has raised the flag every year since this original raising. Since 2021, we have raised the flag in connection with **Earth Day**, to acknowledge the connection between environmental care and peace. This is echoed in the fifth "**Rule of Harmony**" (see back). We also raise the flag with the aim of enlightening others about the endeavors of **E.C. Warriner**, and to recognize that the vision that he pursued is still a work in progress, with each of us playing a role in its fruition. **Warriner** emphasized the pivotal role of **education** in fostering a more harmonious world. Warriner emphasized the importance of learning about individuals he called "Peace Heroes"—those who advocate for non-violent responses to injustice. 2026 marks the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. While the injustices of Britain were met with violence, and while violence and hypocrisy continued in many forms, the Declaration of the American Anti-Slavery Society (1833) explicitly called for a non-violent response to the injustice of slavery, urging that "the power of love and the foolishness of preaching" be used as a tactic. Years passed, and the passage of the Fugitive Slave Act (1850) which mandated the often violent arrest of freed slaves, challenged this approach. Warriner was 16 years old at the time. As he became educated in history, classics, and philosophy, he became drawn to Socrates' principle "never return harm for harm." We invite you to learn more about these pivotal moments in the history of peace and justice—and to reflect on your own role in "working for harmony."

The Symbolism of the Peace Flag

The Tricolor, like the triangle, is emblematic of liberty, unity and fraternity, as the Three throughout all time has stood in religion for Divine Love, Absolute Wisdom, Universal Harmony and in nature for Air, Earth and Water.

The flag, therefore, which symbolizes all these must be a tricolor, composed of yellow, purple and white. Yellow, because this is the color of active love, of energy, and of creative paternal force, attributes of the sunlight, ripeness and plenty. Purple, because this is the color of triumph achieved through constancy, self sacrifice and perseverance, which are feminine or maternal attributes. White, because this is the color of innocence and purity, attributes of the young and inexperienced.

These emblematic colors are so placed as to illustrate the development of humanity. Bertha von Suttner, the most famous peace worker of Brazzà's time and who inspired Alfred Nobel to create his Peace Prize, spoke often of the spiritual development of humanity. "Humanity develops upward," she said, and "we are called to hasten the development of a higher and more fortunate type of human being." The *Pro Concordia Labor* flag symbolically represents these sentiments. The child spirit (White) first appears sustained by the mother spirit (Purple), for the innocent must learn through patient teaching and that self-sacrificing spirit which mediates between the weak and the strong. Tender endurance (Purple) creates the hearth and the family ideals. It is therefore worthy to carry the emblems of aspiration, the crest of Universal Peace; while the paternal element (Yellow), with its power and will, holds humanity to the blue staff of promise and fidelity of purpose.

The Star of Destiny caps the flagstaff and occupies the exalted position in the crest upon the central field of the flag. The soaring wings of a dove sustain the hands of a man and a woman, clasped above the shield,. This represents the insight that the task of developing humanity and creating a peaceful world must be a joint venture undertaken by all genders who labor for these goals *together*.

When Susan B. Anthony (1820-1906) commented on the flag in 1897, she observed the flag's connection to the profound relationship between one's "inner world" and peace work. As she lay her hand on her breast, Anthony noted that "the first person to begin this work of peace is right here." Countess di Brazzà not only agreed with this, she created a personal tool to assist the individual in undertaking this personal peace work. The "Universal Peace Badge" consists of the clasped hands, the wings and the star of the crest made in metal. This forms a pin to support a yellow ribbon for the men, purple for the women, or white for the children. To learn more about the Universal Peace Badge visit:

proconcordialabor.com/badge

Learn more about E.C. Warriner and the past raisings of the Peace Flag at CMU by visiting his **Wikipedia page**, as well as:

ecwarriner.com/flag

The Seven Rules of Harmony

In addition to designing the *Pro Concordia Labor* flag and the Universal Peace Badge, Countess di Brazzà also formulated the The Seven Rules of Harmony. These rules provide concrete guidance to individuals who wish to undertake the work of peace. First presented in 1897 by delegates from the Universal Peace Union to the first National Congress of Mothers (held in Washington, D.C., USA in February 1897), these rules were widely disseminated that year and especially recommended to the consideration of parents, guardians and teachers because they were in a position to teach the rules to children. But the rules are no mere child's play. When taken seriously, they have the power to open latent channels of compassion and direct those channels to the progressive reform work of an activist. They are printed below for your convenience:

1. Make the sacred spirit of peace a living power in your life, and contribute all possible time, thought and money to its diffusion.

2. Never listen, without protest, to insinuations, vituperations or unjust accusations against the members of your family and your fellow-citizens.

3. Seek to understand the spirit of the national laws, and to obey those which exist; and to interest yourself fervently for the modification of all those which you consider tyrannize uselessly over any class of fellow citizens.

4. Dedicate your thought and use your influence to develop the national and patriotic spirit, and do not criticize without purpose the administration of the family and of the nation.

5. Treat all birds and beasts, and all existences of the animal and vegetable world, with justice and gentleness. Do not destroy, save for self-preservation, and for the protection of the weak. Instead, make it your object to plant, to nourish and to propagate all that will lead to the moral and physical amelioration of the family, the home and the nation.

6. Teach your children and your dependents what you may learn with regard to justice and peace, and seek to develop in them sentiments of harmony.

7. Seek each day to utter some work or perform some little action which may promote the cause of peace, whether at home or abroad.