

Kwanzaa Affirmations



Leader: UMOJA-UNITY: To strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation and race.

People: May I each day grow closer to my God, to my own true self, my family, my friends, my community, and the brotherhood of humankind in an ever-widening circle of loyalty and love.

Leader: KUJICHAGULIA – SELF-DETERMINATION: To define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves and speak for ourselves instead of being defined, named, created for and spoken for by others.

People: Lord, empower me to realize my dreams of being and becoming for myself and my people. May those dreams be based on a noble vision of who we are and what we can be, and by the work of my body, mind and the Holy Spirit, may they be made to come true.

Leader: UJIMA – COLLECTIVE WORK AND RESPONSIBILITY: To build and maintain our community together and make our sisters' and brothers' problems our problems, and to solve them together.

People: Let me always, as well as I can, recognize and fulfill my responsibility to myself and to those around me. May I find strength in the performance of my duty, and may that strength be increased by sharing it with my community.

Leader: UJAMMA – COOPERATIVE ECONOMICS: To build and maintain our own stores, shops and other businesses and to profit from them together.

People: May I generously give all that I have to those who can best use it; and may I be open to receive and utilize the resources and opportunities which come to me I return.

Leader: NIA – PURPOSE: To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.

People: May I have an increased understanding of the purpose God has for my life, and may all my energies be constantly directed to that end. May I take full advantage of every opportunity to develop my human potential for love, service and fulfillment.

Leader: KUUMBA – CREATIVITY: To do always as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.

People: Open my mind to new ideas and ways of living. Let me bring to each possibility my own unique creativity, and produce from it something which expresses the essence of who and Whose I am.

Leader: IMANI – FAITH: To believe with all of hearts in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

People: The greatest power in my life is the power of God. Let my faith in God be the groundwork for all that I think and all that I do.

(Resource: Excerpts taken from a Kwanzaa Service-Watchnight Service held at Light of the World Christian Church. This Kwanzaa Service, led by youth, was written and directed by the Rev. Teresa Hord Owens.)

Other Kwanzaa Celebration Resources can be found at: www.discipleshomemissions.org/

