



# ... BRIEFLY

## Presbyterian Peace Fellowship

Vol. 70 General Assembly Issue 2014

[www.presbypeacefellowship.org](http://www.presbypeacefellowship.org) [ppfwitness@gmail.com](mailto:ppfwitness@gmail.com)

Trusting the Nonviolence of Jesus Christ Today

Celebrating the  
**70<sup>th</sup>**

Anniversary of the  
Presbyterian  
Peace Fellowship!

General Assembly Attendees, Please Join Us for

## THE PEACE BREAKFAST

at the 221<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Detroit, MI

**Wed. June 18, 2014**

6:45 am - 8 am Marriott-Renaissance Center

Worth Rising Early! See Commissioner Rebate Info Below

**Speaker: Medea Benjamin, Author,  
*Drone Warfare: Killing by Remote Control***

Peace Leader, Economist, Co-Founder of CODEPINK & Global Exchange  
Recipient of the Martin Luther King Jr. Award for Peace Activism



## 2013 & 2014 Peaceseecker Awards Presented to:



### **Jim Atwood,**

Pastor, Author & Activist, for his Pioneering  
Work to Prevent Gun Violence

### **Jewish Voice for Peace & the Israel/Palestine Mission Network of the PC(USA)**

for their Interfaith Work to End the Occupation of  
the Palestinian Territories & to Create a Secure  
Future for the Israeli & Palestinian Peoples



Israel  
Palestine  
Mission  
Network

Tickets \$22 by June 15 at [presbypeacefellowship.org](http://presbypeacefellowship.org) or the PPF GA Booth 609/708 OR \$24 through GA registration process.  
Full Plated Breakfast - Pick up pre-paid tickets at the PPF Booth in the GA Exhibit Hall or at the Breakfast.

**\$5 Rebate to Commissioners and Advisory Delegates wearing GA name tag at the Breakfast**

Please note: there is no guarantee that tickets will be available after GA registration closes.

Be sure to buy tickets by June 15. This event sells out! E-mail inquiries to [svanceocampo@yahoo.com](mailto:svanceocampo@yahoo.com)

## Welcome to General Assembly !

---from Rick Ufford-Chase, Executive Director,  
Presbyterian Peace Fellowship

Greetings to those of you now preparing for the 221<sup>st</sup> General Assembly this June in Detroit --and to our PPF national community of over 3,200 Presbyterian families.

Each GA offers a chance to strengthen the witness of the PC (USA) on the issues of peace and violence in the world --and to transform how we see the church of Jesus when we all go home after the last gavel and hymn.

This newsletter invites you to the June 18 Peace Breakfast at GA, celebrating the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship. If you can only attend one special breakfast at GA, make this the one! It is a lifetime experience, and often a life-changing experience.

Your GA may be historic. For ten years, Presbyterians have painfully debated divestment as a way to help end the Occupation in Israel-Palestine. Having just visited the region, I am more convinced than ever that divestment poses the question: **What does the Lord require of us?** Is the issue divisive and hard? Yes. Is divestment the right thing to do? Yes. Do we have the courage to do it? Yes. I live in faith that, with God's help, we can do this.

For those serving on GA committees handling peace and violence issues, please watch the mail for Peace Fellowship Briefing Papers prepared by our volunteers. For everyone, an overview of issues is offered here on pages 4-6. For questions or other needs, feel free to use our GA contact address [ga@presbypeacefellowship.org](mailto:ga@presbypeacefellowship.org) Detroit, here come the Presbyterians! Rick Ufford-Chase Moderator of the 216<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

### **BRIEFLY** is the newsletter of the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship

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## A PEACEMAKER'S CALENDAR

**June 15** -- Deadline to Purchase Discount Tickets for The GA Peace Breakfast to be held at the General Assembly on Wed. June 18. See p. 1 [svanceocampo@yahoo.com](mailto:svanceocampo@yahoo.com)

**June 14-21** **PC(USA) General Assembly Detroit MI.**  
**See PPF Free Booth Events, p. 8.**

**Wed. June 18 The Peace Breakfast !**  
**Celebrating PPF's 70<sup>th</sup> Year Speaker: Medea Benjamin** 6:45am -- 8 am at the Marriott-Renaissance. Commissioners, attendees and those who live near Detroit, please join us June 18 for this historic event.

Other GA Events to Visit:

**Mon. June 16, 5:30-7:30pm** Israel/Palestine Mission Network Dinner, Courtyard, tickets \$35, "Scouting Out the Promised Land: In Search of a True Narrative of Liberation," Speaker: Rabbi Brant Rosen, Co-President of the Rabbinical Council of Jewish Voice for Peace

**Tues. June 17, 7-9pm** View the award-winning documentary film "Trigger: the Ripple Effect of Gun Violence," Sponsored by the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program. Marriott, Free but requires a ticket.

**Staying Home? Follow us at GA on social media:**  
**#PPFGA or [presbypeacefellowship.org/GA2014](http://presbypeacefellowship.org/GA2014)**

**July 14-20** Ghost Ranch Annual Conference, Abiquiu, NM. Theme: "Discerning the Signs of the Times -- A Better World is Possible" See [www.ghostranch.org](http://www.ghostranch.org)

**Aug. 6 & 9** Hiroshima and Nagasaki Days

**Sept. 19-Oct. 12** International Peacemakers Tour. For a visit to your area, see [pcusa.org/peacemaking](http://pcusa.org/peacemaking)

**Sept. 25-27** Presbyterian Peace Fellowship National Committee Annual Meeting, Stony Point, NY

**Sept. 21** International Day of Peace, Launch of "Campaign Nonviolence," endorsed by PPF. [paceebene.org](http://paceebene.org)

**Oct. 5** World Communion Sunday/Peacemaking Offering

**Oct. 16-20** Colombia Accompaniment Training, Stony Point, NY. Can you give one month to walk alongside church members in Colombia as an observer and accompanier as they courageously live out the gospel in their nation? Talk about it with Jess Hunter-Bowman at 202-664-6744 [colombia@presbypeacefellowship.org](mailto:colombia@presbypeacefellowship.org)

**Nov. 3-15** South Africa Travel Study Seminar. To apply, see [pcusa.org/peacemaking](http://pcusa.org/peacemaking)

**Nov. 21-23** School of the Americas Vigil [www.soaw.org](http://www.soaw.org)

**Dec. 31** Peace Fellowship Endowment Campaign Ends. Goals: \$700,000 and 70 Covenants for Planned Gifts

**March 19-22, 2015** National Gun Violence Prevention Sabbath Weekend. Start planning! [marchsabbath.org](http://marchsabbath.org)

## Who is the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship? ...and how did it get to be 70 years old????

The Presbyterian Peace Fellowship was founded 70 years ago, in 1944, as a national community of Presbyterians who hear Jesus calling us to engage the gospel of nonviolence with the world that we live in.

We are peacemakers. We are PC(USA) members and volunteers. We have a small part-time staff. We do not have glitzy lobbying campaigns. We raise and give our own funds, paying our own way to GA. We do not work for or represent any government or outside lobbying



group. We are, like you, seeking to be faithful to Christ on some of the most difficult issues faced by the world today.

We invite you to visit our booth at GA and learn why PPF promotes pro-active

nonviolence as the best approach to inevitable human conflict. And we want to hear from you! Let's talk, pray, study and act together, as we are given faith to do.

Like those who founded PPF 70 years ago, we believe that the "just war" concept does not stem from Jesus. We also believe that wars in the modern age do not meet the criteria of "just war" any longer. Our time in history needs pro-active nonviolence in all areas of human conflict---from preventing gun violence to preventing nuclear war, from accompanying church leaders in Colombia to preventing the next war before it begins.



Sometimes pro-active nonviolence means protesting a popular war. Sometimes it means going to other countries to learn first-hand. Sometimes it means going to prison for what we believe. Sometimes it just means not buying a product or a stock that violates others.

That's what we've been supporting for 70 years, one generation nurturing the next. Well, sometimes the young folks nurture the old folks—especially on technology!

As you examine the difficult issues before the GA, please feel free to call on PPF for any information or help that we can give you. **God bless you at GA and may your service there be a blessing to the world!**

## Peace Fellowship Booth 609/708

See p. 8 for Booth Conversations & Exhibit Hall Schedule

**Contact PPF on GA issues at:  
[ga@presbypeacefellowship.org](mailto:ga@presbypeacefellowship.org)**

### Meet the Peace Fellowship GA Interns!

PPF sponsors Young Adult Interns to help with GA activities & to learn more about the PC(USA). Meet them:

Colleen Earp, from New Jersey, is currently working as a PC(USA) Young Adult Volunteer in South Louisiana on faith-based environmental conservation.

Ashley McFaul, a Presbyterian from Northern Ireland and a past volunteer in the Iona Community and inner-city Belfast, is a student at Vanderbilt Divinity School and an Inquirer with Middle TN Presbytery

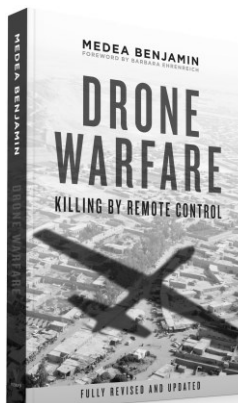
Kate Scarbrough is a Presbyterian from Alabama focusing on urban studies at Barnard College in New York City. She worships at Broadway Presbyterian Church. Thank you, Colleen, Ashley and Kate!

### GA Breakfast Speaker Medea Benjamin

Self-described as "a nice Jewish girl from Long Island," Medea Benjamin has been described by New York Newsday as "one of America's most committed -- and most effective -- fighters for human rights" and by the Los Angeles Times as "one of the high profile leaders of the peace movement." An advocate for peace and social justice for more than 30 years, Benjamin helped win a \$20 million settlement from 27 US clothing retailers for the use of sweatshop labor in Asia. She also pushed Starbucks and other companies to carry fair trade coffee.

Cofounder of both CODEPINK and the international human rights and trade organization Global Exchange, Benjamin provides leadership in the campaign to stop the use of military drones. Her direct questioning of President Obama during his 2013 foreign policy address, as well as her recent trips to Pakistan and Yemen, have brought attention to the innocent people killed by US drones.

A former economist and nutritionist with the United Nations and the World Health Organization, she has published eight books, including *Drone Warfare: Killing by Remote Control*. (available at PPF GA booth)



"Activist extraordinaire Medea Benjamin has documented how the U.S. government's use of drones to murder hundreds of innocent civilians in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia and Yemen has increased the danger to our national security. And Benjamin's *Drone Warfare* is the first book that reveals the vocal international citizen opposition that challenges the legality and morality of America's extrajudicial execution drones before they kill here at home." —Ann Wright, Retired US Army Colonel and Former US Diplomat

# Peacemaking at 221<sup>st</sup> General Assembly

## GA Overture/Report Perspective from the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship

Even if you do not serve as a commissioner on the peace-related GA committees, we hope this is helpful for your larger responsibilities on plenary actions. These are not simple issues. If peace was simple, we would have it already! Stop by the PPF Booth 609/708 for a more in-depth “Blue Paper” on the peace issues before each of these committees.

## Peacemaking and International Concerns - Committee 11

### DRONES:

PPF strongly supports the overture “On the Use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (Drones)” (11-04), which would add much needed policy prohibiting military, paramilitary, and surveillance use of drones and transferring regulation of other uses to protect citizens to the United Nations. A report from the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (ACSWP) on the same subject, Resolution on Drones, War and Surveillance (11-10), provides valuable information for discussion, but fails to condemn drone use even for such purposes as targeted assassinations. Overture 11-04 makes the stronger and better witness, one of the first such actions on drones by a national church body.

### PEACE DISCERNMENT & NONVIOLENCE:

The Peacemaking and International Issues Committee of the 221st General Assembly will consider a key report (11-11) and an important overture (11-01), which together may shape the future of Presbyterian peacemaking.

The report, Risking Peace in a Violent World: Affirmations for Presbytery Consideration (11-11), summarizes findings of the Peace Discernment Process initiated by the GA in 2010 and proposes five affirmations to send to presbyteries for “advisory votes” before their final approval in 2016. We applaud the “Risking Peace in a Violent World” report and the scholarship behind its creation, but PPF does not support the five affirmations as written. Modest wording changes would allow us to fully support this historic process moving forward.

Unlike the report, the overture “On Peace Discernment” (11-01), from Baltimore Presbytery with four concurrences, directly responds to the purpose of the discernment process by calling for “the church to embrace nonviolence as its fundamental response to the challenges of violence, terror, and war.” The Presbyterian Peace Fellowship encourages the General Assembly to adopt the (11-01) Peace Discernment overture as its own strong statement on nonviolence, and to consider incorporating its affirmations in the ones to be sent to the presbyteries for advisory votes.

**Here’s why:** The (11-11) report’s rationale and appendices describe two historical Christian traditions, Christian pacifism and just war, and two emerging Christian traditions about war and violence, just peacemaking and nonviolent direct action. Affirmation 4 fails to recognize Christian pacifism as a worthy tradition along with “just war, just peacemaking and active nonviolence.” PPF believes that both Christian pacifism and just war teaching are largely historical perspectives that lack a mandate for proactive peacemaking initiatives today. Therefore, either both should be included or both omitted. With this change, the affirmation should not offend those who support the limited use of military force nor offend the many Presbyterian peacemakers who can no longer endorse “just war” as a valid perspective on how military engagement is actually conducted today.

Equally troubling is the statement in Affirmation 1, which affirms that God’s “call gives our church a mission to present alternatives to violence and fear, unjustified force, and misused power.” The implied endorsement of “justified force,” meaning military power, excludes those who are committed to nonviolence. The original call for the discernment process was to “seek clarity as to God’s call to the church to embrace nonviolence as its fundamental response to the challenges of violence, terror, and war.” Affirmation 1 fails to provide that clarity – the phrase “unjustified force” should be removed, leaving “misused power” as sufficient to cover military, economic, judicial, or other forms of coercion.

**CUBA & THE CONGO:** We also support two overtures (11-05 and 11-06) and the report on Cuba, which call for small steps to normalize relations and a church consultation to expand our support of Cuban Presbyterians and the overture on Helping to Remedy the Tragic Conditions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (11-12).

**SEXUAL VIOLENCE & HUMAN TRAFFICKING-** We support A Resolution on Developing a Comprehensive Social Witness Policy on Human Trafficking as a Human Rights Issue from the Advocacy Committee on Women’s Concerns (11-13). The overture contains an important recommendation to “give preference to tourism companies... that have signed the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism.”

The Resolution on Sexual Violence within the U.S. Military Services: A 2014 Human Rights Update from ACSWP (11-14) provides a welcome endorsement of the proposal to remove court-martial discretion from the chain-of-command, which may result in more prosecutions of military rapists. However, it is disappointing in its neglect of military sexual violence against civilians in communities near military bases, both in the U.S. and abroad.

## Middle East Issues - Committee 4

Middle East issues are some of the most difficult issues before GA. Please visit the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship website ([presbypeacefellowship.org](http://presbypeacefellowship.org)) for comprehensive Israel-Palestine resources, including first-hand reports, new press releases, the principles underlying our work, and updates on the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement.

### DIVESTMENT

#### PPF supports all of the actions called for in the report from the Committee on Mission

Responsibility Through Investment (04-08), which recommends that “Caterpillar, Hewlett-Packard, and Motorola Solutions be placed on the General Assembly Divestment List until such time as they have ceased profiting from non-peaceful pursuits in Israel-Palestine.”

In 2012, the GA Middle East Issues Committee approved this recommendation with an overwhelming vote after hearing hours of testimony from Christians, Jews, and Muslims. However, the plenary, acting without the powerful direct testimony from Occupation victims, narrowly voted to substitute a weaker statement that did not include divestment. After years of attempts to have discussions with these three companies about their support for Israeli military operations in the West Bank and Gaza, MRTI has again concluded that they are unwilling to either negotiate or change their policies. This leaves the PC(USA) with the responsibility of deciding if it can continue to profit from the worst abuses of the Occupation.



#### Also....

We support the ACSWP Resolution on Equal Rights for All Inhabitants of Israel and Palestine and on Conversations with Prophetic Voices (04-09), which calls for more human rights for Palestinians but should be strengthened to add a call for an end to the Occupation.

We support the overture On Affirming Occupation-Free Investment in Palestine (04-06), which commends the Occupation-Free Fund of the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship and the work of the Presbyterian Foundation to identify ways to engage in occupation-free investment.

We support starting the conversations called for in the overture On Reviewing General Assembly Policy Regarding the Two-State Solution in Israel Palestine (04-01) because our own delegations to Israel-Palestine

have seen the diminishing prospects for a viable Palestinian state and share many of the concerns of this overture.

We support the overture On Calling for a Boycott of All Hewlett-Packard Products (04-05), an initiative PPF has already endorsed, which adds consumer power to the proposed stock divestment to increase pressure on HP to end its business ties with the Israeli military.

#### We recommend disapproval of the overture On Supporting Middle East Peacemaking (4-04)

because it fails to offer effective strategies to overcome the increasing obstacles to Palestinian statehood and it prohibits the church from divesting from companies profiting from the Occupation.

Sitting in the top floor of the Khalil Sakakini Cultural Center in Ramallah we listened to Omar Barghouti incisively dismantle our apathy. “In 2012 at the Presbyterian General Assembly we heard again and again how you have enough problems close to home to be dealing with and how can you possibly make a big impact on Israel’s illegal occupation of Palestine? We’re not asking you to come here and fight the occupation for us. We’re only asking you to withdraw your support for oppression. It’s hardly heroic.”

No, divesting from the corporations that are profiting from the occupation isn’t heroic. It’s the minimal requirement.

Divesting won’t make us heroes but it will make a difference. One thing Omar Barghouti stressed... is how effective the Boycott, Divestment, Sanction campaign (BDS) is proving to be. When boycotts started causing the international security firm G4S to lose several major contracts in Europe, they sold all their operations in the occupied West Bank. The Israeli government has acknowledged that BDS is already damaging their reputation and limiting their trade options and it is still a young movement. Every voice that joins the chorus helps build the momentum like a snowball rolling downhill.

Some will tell you that the PC(USA) is too insignificant to matter in this discussion, but Palestinians we are meeting in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Nazareth and all over the West Bank repeatedly assure us they are watching. Our denomination was the first religious organization in the world to begin exploring divestment as a strategy, making our actions symbolically significant to the movement. There is a great deal of money and energy being spent by Zionist groups to keep Presbyterians from divesting, which wouldn’t be the case unless our decision could have an impact. Boycotts ended Jim Crow. Boycotts and divestment brought down Apartheid. We could have a role in ending this Occupation. We just have to stop supporting oppression. It’s hardly heroic. But it is an excellent beginning.

--from “Hardly Heroic” by Aric Clark, January 2014

See [www.peacedelegation.wordpress.com/](http://www.peacedelegation.wordpress.com/) for other reports from the Peace Fellowship 2014 Delegation to Israel-Palestine

## Peacemaking at 221<sup>st</sup> General Assembly CONT.

**BOYCOTT as a Witness for Peace-** For news and how-to info on the action of the 2012 GA calling Presbyterians to refrain from buying consumer products from the Israeli settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, see [www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/mrti/pcusa-involvement-boycott/](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/mrti/pcusa-involvement-boycott/)

### Mission Coordination – Committee 8

**PPF is concerned about the Report of the Special Offerings Task Force (08-13)** which would replace the Peacemaking Offering with a World Communion Sunday special offering for both global mission and peacemaking, effective immediately. The proposal guarantees some continued funding for the Peacemaking Program for three years, but after that the funding allocations will be determined solely by the Presbyterian Mission Agency. A similar attempt to divert the October offering to global mission failed in 2012, and the task force has shown it did not hear the message of the many who testified for continuing the Peacemaking Offering as a way for congregations to provide designated support for the unique ministry we know as “The Believers’ Calling.” The GA could respond to the real need for global mission support by creating a 5th special offering or by guaranteeing a large percentage of the offering for peacemaking.

### Social Justice Issues – Committee 9

#### GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

We encourage adoption of two good overtures on gun violence. **On Taking Meaningful Action to Reduce Gun Violence (09-01)** calls for a list of legal remedies, including closing the gun show loophole and banning the most dangerous weapons. **On Gun Violence Prevention (09-07)** offers another set of legislative ideas as well as programs and actions for congregations such as declaring their premises to be gun-free zones. The recommendations of these two overtures are all needed and do not duplicate each other. **PPF supports gun violence overtures (09-01) and (09-07).**

**SEXUAL VIOLENCE** We support the overture **On Encouraging Use of the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation (09-03)**

#### DEATH PENALTY

We support the overture **Regarding a National Moratorium on the Imposition of the Death Penalty (09-04)**, which reaffirms the long-standing PC(USA) opposition to the death penalty.

### Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations – Committee 7

We support the overture **On Distinguishing Between Biblical Terms for Israel and Those Applied to the Modern Political State of Israel in Christian Liturgy (07-01)**. Sometimes we become aware of peacemaking issues through our relationships with international partners. This one arose from concerns of Palestinian Christians about a section in the new Presbyterian Hymnal under the heading “God’s Covenant with Israel.” This overture calls for educational materials and communication with ecumenical partners to clarify that the term *Israel* in our liturgy does not refer to a single nation.

### Immigration and Environmental Issues – Committee 15

The overture **On Divestment from Fossil Fuel Companies (15-01)**, supported by a long list of presbyteries, is sure to be a major focus of the work of this committee. It would bypass the usual corporate engagement period, (probably because if the corporations were to make the needed changes they would no longer be “fossil fuel companies”) and immediately begin a 5-year divestment process.

**On Recognizing the Presbyterian Immigrant Defense Initiative to Affirm and Promote the Civil and Human Rights of Immigrants in Our Communities (15-04)** is an overture that acknowledges and encourages the increased activism and advocacy by Presbyterians for immigration reform.

**Prior to GA, if you are a peace Overture Advocate from your presbytery or you have expertise, interest or questions...or if you can communicate peace overture concerns to your presbytery or synod commissioners, please contact Marilyn White 512-450-2766 [marwhite@igc.com](mailto:marwhite@igc.com) or [ga@presbypeacefellowship.org](mailto:ga@presbypeacefellowship.org) ---or come see us in Booth #609/708 at GA. Thanks!**



## 2013 & 2014 Peaceseeker Awards

At the June 18 GA Breakfast, PPF will present the 2013

Peaceseeker Award jointly to **Jewish Voice for Peace and the Israel/Palestine Mission Network** for their interfaith work to promote boycott, sanctions and divestment as practical steps to help end the Occupation and encourage Middle East peace. The 2014 Peaceseeker Award will be presented to **Rev. Jim Atwood** for his leadership for nearly 40 years to summon church members to help enact sensible gun laws that will help prevent gun violence.

With the Peaceseeker Award, PPF honors those who lead our way on the path of peace, starting with the first recipient in 1970, Stated Clerk Wm. P. Thompson. Most recipients of this award are **people of faith who step out on a limb that only much later appears to have been held by hand of God.** At the beginning of their leadership, sheer love, vision and faith urge them on, sometimes in the face of scorn by their own faith communities. PPF celebrates the lives those who break new ground in our understanding of the peace of God.



ISRAEL  
PALESTINE  
MISSION  
NETWORK

PPF gives its first-ever joint interfaith award to the organizations **Jewish Voice for Peace** and the **Israel/Palestine Mission Network** of the PC(USA). Together these two groups have stood on a difficult limb to organize a broad-based international effort of

ordinary citizens and organizations to stop economically supporting the now seven decade old illegal Occupation of the Palestinian people by the State of Israel. The Presbyterian Peace Fellowship salutes their courage.

**Jewish Voice for Peace** represents thousands of Jews in the United States who call upon the State of Israel to stop expanding the Settlements and end the Occupation. Cecilie Surasky, JVP Deputy Director, has described the Boycott, Sanctions and Divestment movement as “the Palestinians’ Montgomery Bus Boycott.” She explains that, “This movement for us as Jews is a form of *tochecha*, the Jewish tradition of sacred rebuke, which comes from a place of love and is the religious obligation to remind one’s friends to live by their values.” Learn more at [jvp.org](http://jvp.org)

The **IPMN** was established by the Presbyterian General Assembly in 2004 with a mandate to “demonstrate solidarity, educate about the facts on the ground, and change the conditions that erode the humanity of both Israelis and Palestinians, especially those who are living under occupation in East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza.” One of 38 PC(USA) Mission Networks that bring together church members that are all involved in the same world region or issue, the all-volunteer IPMN now has 450 members in 80 presbyteries and synods and works closely with historic mission partners in the region such as schools, hospitals and Christian and Interfaith groups in Israel and Palestine.



**Jim Atwood** first raised his voice to question America’s obsession with guns when a charter member of the congregation he was serving was shot and killed by a robber with a Saturday Night Special. A retired pastor, missionary, a husband, father, grandfather, hunter and outdoorsman, Jim has participated in the work for responsible and safe gun laws for almost four decades. He serves on the national board of the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence and works locally with Heeding God’s Call of Greater Washington DC. A member of the National Committee of the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship, Jim (left) served as founding Chair of the PPF Endowment Campaign.

Too often, Jim has been called on to minister to victims of gun violence and their families, whether in a mass shooting, a suicide or an accident. Jim’s approach to preventing gun violence is to work for balanced legislation that can bring together gun owners and public safety advocates in efforts to reduce violence by reasonable steps. He has urged his fellow Presbyterians, those who own guns and those who do not, to support background checks on all gun sales, legal action against gun shops that bypass these checks and a ban of high-powered military-style assault weapons and high-capacity magazines that are not needed for recreation. “What our nation needs,” says Atwood, “is balanced legislation that respects two fundamental constitutional rights: the right to keep and bear arms and the right to enjoy domestic tranquility as one pursues life, liberty and happiness.”

With shootings from Newtown, CT to Fort Hood, Jim Atwood calls upon us “to start talking to each other in our churches and communities about

gun violence. Most Americans favor these sensible steps to reduce gun violence, but many are afraid to talk about this issue which has really to do with the soul of our nation. But if we don’t talk about it and demand it, our politicians will not have the courage to do anything about it.” Jim’s landmark book, *America and Its Guns – A Theological Expose*, is available at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com). Find a six-session study guide for church groups reading the book at [presbypeacefellowship.org](http://presbypeacefellowship.org). For updates from the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, see [csgv.org](http://csgv.org)

coalition to  
**STOPGUN  
VIOLENCE**

## **GA Booth Events Open to All**

Exhibit Hall Booth #609/708 in the COBO Center

Join us for these informal Conversations at the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship Booth

**Mon. June 16 10:30 – 11:30 am Update from the Middle East –A Young Adult Perspective**  
Dialogue with Members of the 2014 Peace Fellowship Israel Palestine Delegation

**Mon. June 16 3:00 – 4 :00 pm Gun Violence Prevention**  
Rev. James Atwood, Recipient of the PPF 2014 Peaceseeker Award and author of the book,  
**America and Its Guns: A Theological Exposé**, copies available for sale.

**Tues. June 17 10:30 – 11:30 am Colombia Accompaniment Today**  
"Accompaniment in Colombia: Supporting Peacebuilding in a Country at War"  
Jess Hunter-Bowman, PPF Colombia Accompaniment Program Coordinator

**Wed. June 18 10:30 – 11:30 am Peace Activist Medea Benjamin**  
Dialogue with the Peace Breakfast Speaker, Medea Benjamin of CODEPINK, on drones, her peace activism and her latest book, **Drone Warfare: Killing by Remote Control**, copies available for sale.

**Visit Booth #\_\_\_ to share peace concerns, find new nonviolence resources, souvenirs & more.**

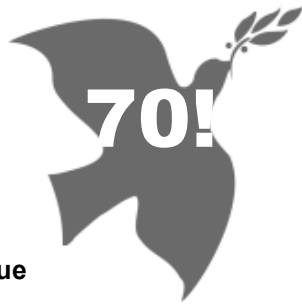
**Exhibit Hall Hours:** Fri. June 13, 10am-7:30pm; Sat. June 14, 8:30-10:45am & 12:30-5pm & 5:30-7pm  
(Commissioners/Advisory Delegates only); Sun. June 15, 1:30-7:30pm; Mon June 16, 9am-7:30pm;  
Tues. June 17, 9am-5pm, Wed. June 18, 9:30am-7pm

***PPF at GA #PPFGA***



**Presbyterian Peace Fellowship**  
**17 Cricketown Road**  
**Stony Point, NY 10980**

[www.presbypeacefellowship.org](http://www.presbypeacefellowship.org)



**General Assembly Issue**

## **The Peace Breakfast** **Wed. July 18**

***Celebrating PPF's***  
***70<sup>th</sup> Birthday !!***

**At the 221<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**  
**Detroit, MI Ticket Info p. 1**

**Divestment? Discernment?**  
**GA Peacemaking and Middle East**  
**Issues Reviewed Pages 4-6**