



... BRIEFLY

Presbyterian Peace Fellowship

Endowment Campaign Special Issue

Vol. 69 Summer 2013

www.presbypeacefellowship.org ppfwitness@gmail.com

Trusting the Nonviolence of Jesus Christ Today

PPF Restarts Endowment Campaign Stalled by Recession, Campaign Seeks Completion by PPF's 70th Birthday in 2014

**J. Barrie Shepherd Joins Ann Weems as New
Endowment Campaign Honorary Co-Chair**

Originally from Scotland, Barrie Shepherd is a pastor, writer, poet and peacemaker. Pastor Emeritus of the First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York, he has written 15 books, most recently "Faces by the Wayside" (Cascade Books) and "Between Mirage and Miracle" (Wipf and Stock). Hear his story:

Briefly: Barrie, What has motivated you toward peacemaking?

Barrie: It started at a young age. On my desk I have the burned-out end of a German incendiary bomb which landed outside our house when I was eight or nine. My father picked it up in an old damp sack - still very hot - I can remember the smell of it. He kept it for almost 50 years and gave it to me as the oldest child, the one who would remember what war was all about.

I remember later in the war when the tide had turned. On summer evenings we would go outside and cheer on the British bombers going to bomb Germany. I dropped out of high school at 15 to go to work. I did two years of national service in the Royal Air Force. I had been an Air Cadet and the members of the RAF were my boyhood heroes.

Then I was called to ministry and, after 18 months of night school and correspondence courses was admitted to Edinburgh University. On a camping trip on the continent I went to Frankfurt and met the family of a German student, the first Germans I had ever met. We sat up late around the dinner table drinking wine and talking. These former enemies turned out to be just as human as I was.

Later at Yale Divinity School, three of my close friends were German foreign students studying theology. This pointed out to us all the absurdity of warfare and how it teaches people to think about the enemy. In the RAF, carrying a gun, if ordered to shoot Germans, I believe I would have done so. To realize that these friends would have been my enemies---- well it was a gradual awakening, a gradual transformation in my thinking away from my childhood conviction that all Germans were evil.

In the US, I became involved in the Civil Rights movement and was serving in a Chicago storefront church set in a community of Hispanics and Gypsies. We went to protest at the Illinois legislature and I picked up a picket sign on behalf of my parishioners. Later I met Bill Coffin. He became a friend and a mentor. In the 60s and 70s I was in DC for vigils and marches on the Pentagon.

My best friend at Yale was from Oklahoma. In 1972 he stunned me by telling me that he was gay. A sleepless night was spent with the question, Do I abandon my faith or my friend? His Christian faith was exemplary, so I chose to begin working for civil rights for gay people.

It was all part of a process of learning that the enemy, the different one is a person, a process of broadening understanding, that led me to a rejection of war, a rejection of being willing to kill anyone in the name of anything. (Interview Cont. on Page 8)

Drones PPF is creating a

Photo, Post-Standard

sample overture for the June 2014 General Assembly that will call on the US to stop using lethal military drones. A similar overture recently passed the Church of the Brethren denomination. See the new



PresbyPeaceE-News and our website at presbypeacefellowship.org for the sample overture.

If you can present such an overture to a session, presbytery or synod, please contact PPF Associate Director Fritz Gutwein now:

fritzg@presbypeacefellowship.org 202-681-3437

At the GA in Detroit, our PPF Peace Breakfast speaker will be **Medea Benjamin** co-founder of Code Pink and Global Exchange, and author of *Drone Warfare: Killing by Remote Control (OR Books)*.

On April 28, PPFers joined 250 others to protest drone warfare at the Hancock Air Base near Syracuse, NY. They included MaryAnn Harwell, Emily Brewer and Julienne Oldfield, a former Prisoner of Conscience at the SOA. Oldfield, above far left, was arrested in the protest, one of the first in a growing movement against drone warfare. Please keep PPF apprised of any new actions/info on drone warfare. Our silence is complicity.

From the Editor

Dear Friends,

Our Peace Fellowship Endowment Campaign is back in the saddle again! With the leadership of Ann Weems, Al Winn, Jim Atwood, Gail Brown and Edie Gause, we made great progress 2006-2008. In day #1, below, Ann leads us to mail the first letters. But with the tough recession, PPF put the campaign on pause.



Now the recession has receded. This issue of *Briefly* invites you to partner anew with the peacemakers of the future in the work of nonviolence.

With the passing of Endowment Honorary Co-Chair Al Winn, we welcome

J. Barrie Shepherd to join Ann as Honorary Co-Chair. Who knew that it would take two poets to get it done?

So let's do it! The goal is another \$250,000. Let's respond to the wonderful enclosed matching gift for an Occupation-Free fund. And let's also keep up our regular gifts for PPF's work.

The world strikes me as unusually unsettled right now. Will we take advantage of new leadership in Iran to prevent nuclear war? What will happen in Colombia and Egypt and Syria and in the gun stores and gun shows?

This sense of fragility and danger makes me appreciate the community that we have together in PPF. Let's make PPF a resurrection community across the generations and into the future beyond our lifetimes. We can do this. -Jan Orr-Harter, Co-Editor, Aledo, TX

BRIEFLY is the newsletter of the

Presbyterian Peace Fellowship

17 Cricketown Road Stony Point, NY 10980
presbypeacefellowship.org 845-786-6743

Roger Powers, Libby Shannon Co-Moderators
Judy Lee, Secretary Len Bjorkman, Moderator Emeritus Will White, Treasurer
Peggy Howland, Asst. Treasurer Carrie Dixon, Bookkeeper
Shannan Vance-Ocampo, Colombia Program Director
MaryAnn Harwell, Office Administrator
ppfwitness@gmail.com
maryann@presbypeacefellowship.org

Sarah Prager Web Content Manager
sarah@presbypeacefellowship.org

Dylan Rooke, Peace Discernment Coordinator
dylan@presbypeacefellowship.org 724-561-8970
Linda Eastwood, Colombia Accompaniment Coordinator
216-502-5434 colombia@presbypeacefellowship.org

Rick Ufford-Chase, Executive Director
Rickuffordchase@gmail.com
Fritz Gutwein, Associate Director 202-681-3437
fritzg@presbypeacefellowship.org

BRIEFLY is funded entirely by gifts from our readers, members & friends. Send donations, address change/ subscription needs to MaryAnn Harwell at our Stony Point office. Write to the editors at: Jan Orr-Harter PO Box 930, Aledo, TX 76008 JanOH4@aol.com 817-291-3952 & Marilyn White 2705 Edenwood Dr. Austin, TX 78745 marwhite@igc.org 512-450-2766

A Peacemaker's Calendar

Aug. 6 & 9 Hiroshima-Nagasaki Days. See Week of Action info at www.icanw.org

Sept 27 – Oct 21 International Peacemakers Tour. Contact peacemaking@pcusa.org

Sept. 19-21 PPF National Committee Annual Meeting at Stony Point Center, NY. Open to all PPF members. Contact MaryAnn@presbypeacefellowship.org for info.

Oct. 6, 2013 Peacemaking Offering. Materials at www.pcusa.org/ministries/specialofferings

Oct. 24-28, 2013 Colombia Accompaniment Training. Churches in Colombia have endured over 50 years of grim violence in their beautiful country. Can you give a month to act as an international accompanier to provide a measure of



safety—international eyes—for their work? Above, PPF Accompaniers console a father whose son had been assassinated for trying to reclaim the land belonging to his displaced community. Contact [Linda Eastwood colombia@presbypeacefellowship.org](mailto:LindaEastwood@presbypeacefellowship.org)

Nov. 22-24 SOA Vigil, see p. 3 and www.soaw.org

Dec. 14, 2013 One year since Newtown, CT murders

Jan. 3-17, 2014 PPF Young Adult Delegation to Israel-Palestine.

March 13-17, 2014 Colombia Accompaniment Training at Stony Point, NY. **A)** Join us for the training for going to Colombia as an Accompanier –**OR-** **B)** Reach out to recruit others who can do this ministry. Spanish most helpful but not required. The need is urgent. Talk about it with Linda Eastwood at 216-502-5434.

April 28-May 10, 2014 Presbyterian Peacemaking Program Conference in Israel/Palestine. Apply at www.pcusa.org/mosaicofpeace

June 14-21, 2014 General Assembly, Detroit, MI. Celebrate PPF's 70th Anniversary at GA and hear our Peace Breakfast Speaker Medea Benjamin, Code Pink

Deadlines for Submitting GA Overtures & the Now-Required Concurrence by one presbytery or more:
Feb. 14, 2014 for Amendments to Book of Order
April 15, 2014 for Overtures with Financial Implications
April 30, 2014 All other Overtures
See www.pcusa.org/section/ga/ga221

Dec. 31, 2014 PPF Endowment Campaign Completion See page 4.

Sign up for PPF's new PresbyPeaceE-News, a short update on action every other Tuesday. See presbypeacefellowship.org/signup

Nonviolence News

Gun Violence Prevention Offering of Letters Sara Dorrien of PPF's Gun Violence Prevention team has created an "Offering of Letters Service" on gun violence to use in your community. Her "Guide to Creating an Offering of Letters Service" includes a service in which worshippers write letters to elected officials, plus follow up steps. See presbypeacefellowship.org/gun-violence The same webpage has info on Jim Atwood's book and PPF's Six Session Study Guide for "America and its Guns: A Theological Exposé" (Cascade Books)

No More Names Bus Tour June 14- Oct 22 – Marking six months since the Sandy Hook school murders, Mayors Against Illegal Guns helped launch a 100 day No More Names bus tour that departed Newtown, CT on June 14, filled with gun violence prevention advocates, including family members of gun victims. Early stops included New Hampshire and Maine. They will visit 25 states to create local events to thank members of congress who are supporting sensible legislation to reduce gun violence--- and to hold protest/accountability events at the local offices of those who do not yet do so. Follow the tour and meet them in your state at nomorenames.org

Peacemaking Offering Gun Violence Prevention Bulletin Insert – Among resources for the October 2013 Peacemaking Offering is an excellent gun violence prevention insert & Minute for Mission on work supported by the Riviera Pres. Church in Miami. Order or download PDS #12142-13-204 free at www.store.pcusa.org/1214213204

Colombia Accompaniment Near Barranquilla, where we started our accompaniment program nearly nine years ago, displaced people trying to reclaim their own land or to claim their rights to vacant land are being threatened and killed by right-wing neo-paramilitary groups, often supported by the army or police. Our April companions, visiting the community of El Tamarindo to console a grieving father after the assassination of his son, found themselves witnessing the illegal bulldozing of the community's crops, right. The Presbyterian Church of Colombia (IPC) still needs our eyes and ears. The IPC is careful to keep our companions safe from risks that may not even be apparent to us, but which for the "locals" are all too real.



This fall Linda Eastwood plans to complete her work as PPF Colombia Accompaniment Coordinator and return to her career in teaching. Thank you, Linda, for a difficult task done beautifully. PPF has a job description for this part-time position at presbypeacefellowship.org/coordinator for applications.

Looking Ahead to General Assembly

Plan now to join the Peace Fellowship at the 221st General Assembly of the PC(USA) in Detroit, Michigan June 13-21, 2014. We will be there to urge the GA to take strong stands on peace and justice issues and to support commissioners with background briefings on a variety of global concerns. Please let us know if you will be attending GA as a commissioner or if you can volunteer to work with PPF. Also, let us know about any overtures that your presbytery is sending to GA, as well as any overture advocates coming. Send an email to the PPF General Assembly team at ga@presbypeacefellowship.org to sign up for updates about our plans for Detroit.

Close the SOA Nov. 22-24 Vigil at Ft. Benning, GA In a huge victory for SOA victims and activists, a US federal judge recently ruled that the Pentagon must resume making public the names of those who attend or teach at the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC), formerly the SOA. Join PPF at the Nov. 22-24 Annual Vigil at Ft. Benning, GA to call for a closure of the infamous school for assassins. Events include training, music and the procession of the crosses and reading of the names. Details at www.soaw.org or contact Marilyn White marwhite@igc.org 512-450-2766 if you are interested in going or in "crossing the line." See a short film on prior year vigils, "Somos Una America," now on YouTube.com

Israel-Palestine Boycott 101 Join the boycott called for by the last General Assembly on Israeli products made in or with resources from the Occupied Territories. See "Boycott 101" on products to boycott at www.ipmn.org

Israel-Palestine PPF Young Adult Delegation - Jan. 3-17, 2014

Twenty six young adults, selected from 70 outstanding applicants, will travel to Israel-Palestine in January as PPF's first Young Adult Delegation. Led by PPF Director Rick Ufford-Chase, Mark Johnson, past Director of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, and Kelly Baker of InterFaith Peace Builders, the group will learn from as many points of view as possible and will experience a place held holy by all the Abrahamic Faiths. This delegation builds on PPF's commitment to a just peace in the region and to the investment in young adult peacemakers, who will then be available to visit with local church groups across the US. Look for a detailed report and updates from the trip at Facebook.com

Completing PPF's Endowment Campaign – What's New?

Occupation-Free Fund Option – Matching Gifts through Sept. 15, 2013

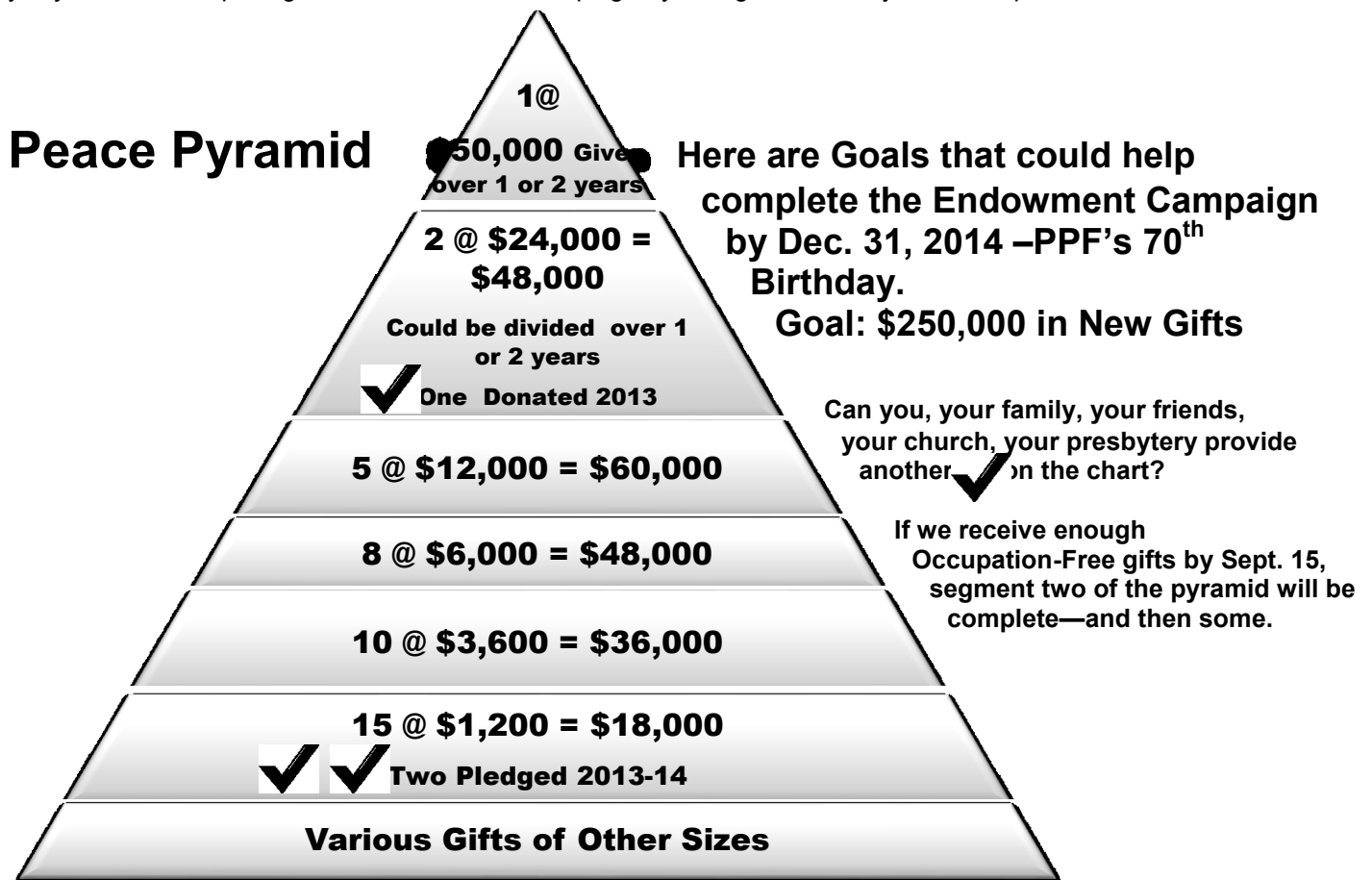
By Melinda Thompson, PPF Endowment Campaign Team and Convener, PPF Middle East Working Group

In restarting the Endowment Campaign, our task is to build the current fund of about \$345,000 up to at least \$500,000. Given the fluctuation of mutual funds, our Endowment Completion Team believes that we really need about \$600,000 to start using the endowment—about an additional \$250,000 or more. Then PPF's action budget will receive funds every year, in perpetuity, from the endowment. If anything requires perpetuity, it's peacemaking! So we are tasked to raise and give \$250,000 or more. The "Peace Pyramid" below gives a suggested way to reach our goal.

As a member of PPF who spends much of my time working on Israel-Palestine issues, I am delighted to announce that we are re-launching the campaign with a new "Occupation-Free" fund option within the endowment. It gets better! Through the gift of an anonymous donor, every gift that you give to the Occupation Free fund through Sept. 15, 2013, will be matched up to \$25,000. If all gifts are received, we will have raised at least \$50,000 for the endowment and made a prophetic and practical investment witness, further encouraging the PC(USA) to also do so. Thereafter all endowment donors will have an option to give to the general endowment fund or the Occupation-Free fund, or both, until the Israeli occupation ends.

What is an Occupation-Free fund and why do we want one? An occupation free fund is one that does not invest in companies that are complicit with the Israeli settlement enterprise, i.e., that do business in, exploit, support, contribute to, or profit from the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian Territories (OPT). "Do business" would include any company that has a store or manufacturing facility in a settlement in the OPT (Blockbuster, Ahava, Pizza Hut, Soda Stream, Keter Plastics, Interstar Toys, wineries in the Golan Heights). "Support" or "profit from" would be a profit-making company that makes the occupation possible (Motorola Solutions, Caterpillar, HP, Volvo, Alstom); being complicit would include discriminating in delivering products to the settlements in the OPT when they refuse to deliver the same products to Palestinians in the OPT(Ikea).

This is a new approach and we do not know what the investment results will be, but we feel that it is important to take this step publically to encourage a just peace in the region and an end to the Israeli occupation. When the occupation ends, the Occupation-Free fund will be combined with the rest of the PPF endowment. Our larger endowment already has a socially-responsible focus, screening out investments with significant military, war-making corporations. So will you join me in completing PPF's Endowment Campaign by taking a stand for justice and peace?



Where There's a Will There's a Way Goal: 70 Covenants by 70 Years !!

Did you know that one sentence in your will can help prevent war? In the first phase of the Endowment Campaign, 42 individuals made a covenant to remember PPF in their wills or through some other form of planned giving. Some have planned a fixed amount. Others a percentage or tithe or a residual amount after other obligations have been honored. We can plan to give bonds, stock, insurance, investment and retirement accounts, real estate, a vehicle or other personal belongings.

Our goal: 28 additional covenants for a total of 70 planned gifts by PPF's 70th birthday in 2014. Could you be one of those 28? These gifts beyond our lifetimes will combine and multiply to work for peace across the generations. Please see the enclosed reply slip for information on making a covenant to remember PPF.

Endowment News Flash: The Peacemakers of the Future are Here !!

Briefly Interviews Sarah Prager, PPF's new Web Content Manager, 26, who lives in the Washington DC area and comes to PPF with a history of activism in LGBT work for equality and Palestine-Israel reconciliation work.

Briefly: Sarah, we began the PPF Endowment Campaign as a partnership across generations with the Peacemakers of the Future. A benefit of the campaign delay caused by the recession is that the Peacemakers of the Future have begun to arrive. As a young adult, what has motivated you toward peacemaking?



Sarah: I was raised by a mom and dad who cared about social justice. It was a value that they instilled in me. When I was 12, we went to Malaysia and I saw real poverty for the first time. From that trip came a desire to help change the things that keep people in poverty and violence. As a child, it struck me as unfair that I was born into a situation of peace and privilege while others were born into a place where it was much more likely that they would fall into violent situations.

My dad's family lives in Israel as Orthodox Jews living in the belief that the land is theirs. When I went to college, I was randomly assigned to a roommate who was Palestinian-American. Together we founded the Palestinian-Israeli Peace Alliance our freshman year. It was a club that allowed students to focus on the similarities between the two cultures, such as food. There were international students there from Israel and Palestine who had never met someone from the other side who were able to form friendships. We put on social events, as well as film screenings and discussions of the issues.

A sense of common ground in that group is something that my whole generation is being raised with. We are perhaps the most diversely-connected generation ever—racially, religiously, in terms of sexual orientation. We are so much more likely than our parents to meet and know people who have different identities. This increase in opportunities for cross-cultural friendships will help us with peacemaking.

Briefly: What peace issues concern you the most?

Sarah: Most of my time has gone into Israel-Palestine and LGBT issues. There has been so much change just in my lifetime for those of us who are gay or another sexual minority. Hate crimes against anyone who is different are issues of nonviolence and peacemaking. Also issues of food, water and environment, as wars have and can be fought over these issues that affect everyone on the planet.

A sense of common ground is something that my whole generation is being raised with.

Briefly: What does your generation of peacemakers have in common with prior peacemakers?

Sarah: The underlying feeling of outrage at violence and wanting things to be different will always be the same, no matter how times change. People will always have this same feeling that connects us. Mass demonstrations and direct action are tactics used by past generations of peacemakers that have not gone away.

Briefly: And differences?

Sarah: Technology is the biggest difference. The internet allows us to connect with movements and groups around the world as never before. We're already taking it for granted that we have this amazing tool. My generation could click a button and consider that their activism is done. It's been described as "slacktivism" -- posting on Facebook or signing a letter on-line instead of going out and having a face-to-face conversation with someone about the issues that might be more effective than one tweet. Though I understand that downside, I believe strongly in using social media and blogs to spread our message and using them as tools for good.

Briefly: What is your message to the peacemakers of the past?

Sarah: Thank you for the foundation and groundwork you have laid. Cooperation and action within one's own generation can accomplish many things, but it will disappear if it is not passed on by mentoring, teaching and investing in the younger future leaders of the peace movement. Working to change the world is impossible to do without investing in the next generation who will do this work.

Sarah Prager edits PPF's PresbyPeaceE-News every other Tues. Sign up at presbypeacefellowship.org/signup

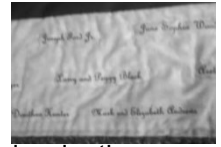
The Presbyterian Foundation

PPF's endowment is managed by the Presbyterian Foundation's New Covenant Funds, one of the world's largest mutual funds for socially-responsible investment. The Foundation also helps PPF with planned gifts such as trusts, life-time income and IRA direct giving distribution options for donors over age 70. Contact Pat Ohlmann at pat.ohlmann@presbyterianfoundation.org or 800-858-6127 Option #2.



Legacy of Peace Quilt

The Legacy of Peace Quilt, bears the names of all contributors to the endowment, plus the names of all PPF PeaceSeeker awardees since the first award to William P. Thompson in 1970. Created by past Endowment Fund Co-Chair Gail Brown as a gift for the peacemakers of the future, this quilt represents a legacy of dollars to help them and a legacy of prophetic action to inspire them.



Peace Sign Endowment Premiums

Receive an authentic 1960s peace sign--- a paper clamp or a magnet--- in thanks for your help to complete the endowment campaign. Made of wood in vivid, hopeful colors by the Otagiri Mercantile Co. of Japan, the peace symbols were shipped from the only nation to experience nuclear weapons to the only nation to ever use them. The shipping crates were never opened. Let's open them now! Through a special donation to PPF, endowment completion donors of \$250 or more will receive this piece of peace history as a gift. Donors of \$1,200 and up will receive one dozen peace signs in their original Japanese boxes.



From the Director *Rich!* Thoughts on the Future of Peacemaking

As we work to finish the endowment campaign and begin using the earned interest in our action budget every year, it's good to reflect on PPF's legacy of nearly 70 years and on its future. Here are my thoughts on where PPF might go from here and how we might shape the witness of the PC(USA) over the coming decade. What do you think?

PPF Vision: A Conversation Piece for Stakeholders of the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship

Idea: As we work to build the capacity of the PPF we should focus on encouraging the creation of small, intentional, communities to support their members in living out values grounded in the Gospel of Jesus, speaking truth to power, and in taking nonviolent action together and resist the false the seduction and false promises of the dominant culture.

Community Formation Grants: In 2014, I propose that we begin offering small grants of \$500 per month (annual commitments of \$6,000 per grant to be renewed up to three years) to support the creation of new or emerging "Peace Communities" in at least six regions across the United States. Such proposals (up to six of which would be funded in 2014) would be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- A clear commitment to place Jesus at the center of their life together
- A shared commitment to living their faith from a reformed perspective
- A commitment to a high level of interaction, either through choosing intentionally to live together, or to meeting regularly and often in person
- An ability to balance spiritual grounding, study, and direct action for the cause of peace, nonviolence and justice in their own community and in the world
- A welcoming of diversity in the community, including multi-age diversity
- A willingness to cooperate with other PPF communities and the PPF National Committee to strengthen the peace witness of the PPF and the PC(USA)
- A clear plan to develop other financial or in-kind resources, using the seed money from the PPF as a way to provide some key component of the stability needed to help the community to thrive (paying rent, utilities, shared food budget, resources for travel, etc.)



Rationale

Context: Jesus is Lord! And still - the PC(USA) has been losing members steadily for decades. As a result, there have been cyclical budget cuts at the national, synod, and presbytery levels, leaving peace and justice advocates in the difficult position of scrambling to do their work with far fewer staff people and support committees or fighting among themselves and with other parts of the church to protect their share of an ever-shrinking pool of resources.

Traditional ways of relating to the church are rapidly disappearing. This is painful for many of us, but we can see the movement of God's spirit in this moment as well. For instance:

- we see the church moving toward the edges of our society and reclaiming its role in speaking truth to power.

- Our communities are beginning to recognize that we must ask more of one another as we seek together to be faithful in an empire culture that is largely antithetical to the gospel of peace.
- We see new diversity in our members in terms of race, culture, gender, generations and sexual orientation.
- We are being transformed positively by witnessing to our faith in a more religiously pluralistic and open society, seeing other religious traditions as partners and seeking common ground for work in the world.
- Shrinking resources are forcing us away from institutional maintenance, caring for property, and professional staffing models developed in the 20th c. New possibilities can change our lives and our communities.

Further, the nature of worshipping communities is changing. Some congregations are rethinking what holds them together and how they will act in the world. New communities are being created by faithful folks who want a deeper experience of Christian community, or perhaps a less traditional one, than most congregations can provide.

History: The Presbyterian Peace Fellowship has been a voice of conscience - grounded in the gospel of the Prince of Peace - in the PC(USA) for nearly seventy years: supporting conscientious objectors, articulating a principled stand against nuclear weapons during the Cold War, and developing a corps of volunteers prepared to carry out nonviolent direct action in response to the spiral of violence that has accelerated since the “War on Terror” began following 9/11. Our mission has been to strengthen the PC(USA)’s witness and commitment to nonviolence by supporting, training and developing opportunities for direct action for individual Presbyterians and their congregations. In recent years, our efforts have been focused on:

- working to close the School of the Americas,
- fomenting Christian and multifaith movements against wars in Iraq & Afghanistan,
- offering accompaniment for human rights workers in Colombia,
- supporting Palestinians and Israelis who are committed to ending the occupation through nonviolent means,
- working to end gun violence in the United States
- Developing a church policy to stand against the use of military drones,
- Leading the entire denomination into a season of discernment about how to respond to violence in our time.

As we have strengthened our witness over the last fifteen years, we’ve been clear that we do not intend to replace local congregations, but instead to help revive their ability to live a vibrant witness to the power of the gospel. I would broaden that understanding now to include the reality that there is great interest across the church in creating new ways to express what it means to live in Christian community.

The Dilemma and the Opportunity: As the PC(USA) continues to shrink, the resulting void in our denomination’s peace witness is increasingly apparent. Any objective view of the current trend suggests that within a very few years there will be few – if any – staff members remaining at the national or mid-council levels of the denomination who are dedicated to equipping the church for its peacemaking and justice roles. No matter how committed any remaining staff may be, our challenge will be to imagine new ways to grow the church’s witness for peace in a time of diminishing resources, when the resources to support staff are not likely to exist.

The Vision: The Presbyterian Peace Fellowship should intentionally develop the capacity to shape a grassroots movement of Presbyterians who will carry out Jesus’ commitment to peace, justice and transformative nonviolence. Our goal should be to have thirty thousand Presbyterians who are affiliated with the PPF and who support us in the work of transforming the Presbyterian witness for peace in the U.S.

Our witness for peace must be grounded in distinctive tenets in the reformed faith:

- our trust in scripture, and the radical nature of the gospel stories and teachings of Jesus,
- our celebration of the gift of grace freely given by God as we wrestle with the powers and principalities of evil in our own lives and in the world,
- our conviction that we are shaped by our historic confessions, the living documents of our predecessors who wrestled with similar questions.
- and our constant willingness to be changed by the movement of God’s spirit in the world. (We are reformed and always being reformed.)

Conclusion: Jesus is Lord – and he is the Prince of Peace! His witness for justice and nonviolence, and the power of his life to transform our own lives, has never been more needed than it is right now. The PPF has been actively working to strengthen our organizational capacity for nearly 20 years. Prayerful discernment and savvy, strategic organizing now can open the potential for us to have a significant impact on the PC(USA) as it contracts and becomes something new. To do so, we will need to be focused and intentional.

The powers and principalities that stand against the cause of peace are as strong now as ever in history, and there is an urgent need to develop a powerful witness for peace from the church. If we do so prayerfully, thoughtfully, strategically and actively, we can have an impact far beyond our numbers, both in influencing the church and in helping the church to promote values that will build up life-affirming ways in the broader culture. I look forward to conversation with you about Christ’s call to us to respond to that need.

In Christ, Rick Ufford-Chase, Executive Director

Cont from p. 1 J. Barrie Shepherd, Honorary Co-Chair Endowment Campaign

Briefly: Why is it such a process to become peacemakers? Why is it so hard for Christians to see the connection between Jesus and nonviolence?

Barrie: We don't take Jesus seriously enough. We look at things that suit us and not at things that judge us. That's true of all of us. And there is the old Niebuhrian rejection of complete pacifism. I think that most Christians see nonviolence as an extreme radical position instead of being a natural outflow of the way Jesus lived and the way he died.

The crucifixion is about nonviolence. You might say that we've been "snookered" on this. We get so caught up on the cross being about purchasing salvation, a transaction. But if you just read the cross story straight, it's about resisting evil through another means. Gandhi saw that about Jesus and he wasn't even a Christian. Perhaps it was Paul who took the cross and made it into this transaction. If we don't see the cross as a "deal" for us, it would be as plain as our own faces that the cross is about passive resistance and nonviolence.

What do you see as the future of PPF?

It seems to me that we've got to keep putting these examples out there of what the church is really about. This younger generation is idealistic. They want their lives to stand for something. PPF must continue to offer them alternative demonstrations of the real church. If that dies out, why bother?

And why are you working on the PPF Endowment Campaign?

I went to serve Swarthmore Presbyterian Church. They were affluent and educated, but they had no endowment. The strong liberal people there felt that a church should be able to pay its way or die, that endowments were part of the problem, not the solution. I told them that I couldn't share that, that we were abdicating a responsibility to the future. The church buildings that we had received were a huge "endowment" and we need to set up an endowment. The session wouldn't do it. So on my own I went out and talked to church members and raised about \$1 million. Liberal people have a bias that we all need to pay our own way and not store up what others might need. But it seems to me to be practical and responsible to make sure that what you believe in has a future. Of course, I'm Scottish!

Briefly: What is your message to the peacemakers of the future?

Barrie: When you are working for peace, you are doing Jesus' work. The fourth gospel, the part that we use in funerals, I know it by heart: Jesus says, "Peace I leave with you. My peace I give unto you." Jesus' bequest to us was the endowment of peace. This is his last will and testament. It's our job to take that endowment of peace and make it prosper and grow. If the church is not listening to that, I don't think it is listening to Jesus.

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

www.presbypeacefellowship.org

**Summer 2013 Special Issue
The Future of Peacemaking
Endowment Campaign Completion**



What sign of peace arrived from Japan to the USA, c. 1965, and was never opened?

See p. 6. Remember Hiroshima and Nagasaki by finally opening the shipping crates above.