



# ... BRIEFLY

## Presbyterian Peace Fellowship

Vol. 71 Annual Report Spring 2015  
[www.presbypeacefellowship.org](http://www.presbypeacefellowship.org) [ppfwitness@gmail.com](mailto:ppfwitness@gmail.com)  
**Trusting the Nonviolence of Jesus Christ Today**

### Two New PPF Statements

During Holy Week 2015, in the face of rising violence and retaliation worldwide, the National Committee of the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship released two new foundational documents for our work together and testimony with the world. "On the day Jesus was put to death," wrote the National Committee, "we once again affirm our stance against war. We chose to embrace gospel nonviolence as the only stance consistent with Christian discipleship. We invite all persons of good will, and especially followers of Jesus, to work with us in projects aimed at building peace."

Also created was a liturgical resource that can be used by congregations. It projects an alternative view to the tired theological statements that encourage communities to accept pat answers when confronted with violent conflict. It is our hope these documents will inspire and support Presbyterians who are trying to stand against the easy answers of military aggression that dominate the media and permeate even our churches in the United States today. **See both Statements on P. 3**

### Coming Up...

#### Climate Change & Conflict

A special issue of our newsletter, BRIEFLY, will reach you mid-summer, filled with resources for education and action for congregations on how climate change will impact human conflict—and what we can do about it. Contents include a multi-week small group study for congregations and presbyteries, as well as worship, networking and educational materials on this topic of importance to all of us.

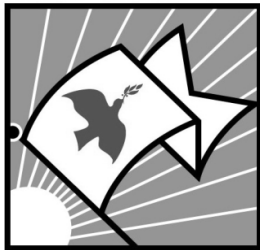
PPF has created a new committee on Climate Change and Conflict. If you would like to participate, contact PPF Co-Director Fritz Gutwein at 202-681-3437 or [fritzg@presbypeacefellowship.org](mailto:fritzg@presbypeacefellowship.org)

PPF's Endowment Investment Committee is the first PPF group to undertake a study on Climate Change. A reading and reflection process is now underway by the group entrusted as stewards of PPF's endowment fund. To comment or to receive a copy of the reading list, contact chairperson Jan Orr-Harter at [JanOH4@aol.com](mailto:JanOH4@aol.com)

### PPF Convocation June 4-7

Still Time to Register!

#### THE ART OF



#### WAGING PEACE

# 2015

## CONVOCA- TION OF PEACEMAKERS

Every two years (when there is no General Assembly), PPF summons together Presbyterian peacemakers who want to learn, network and strategize for the future. There will be top keynote speakers and sermons, but the heart of the PPF Convocation is what happens over a cold drink late at night, or in the hallways or in front of the coffee maker during the day. Our goal is not to provide answers, but instead to ask hard questions and then wrestle with those questions together.

This convocation is designed to offer significant time for small group conversations—in response to worship and the keynote presentations and through the use of "Open Space." Come to explore ways to become more deeply involved in our projects around Colombia, Israel and Palestine, Peace Discernment, and Gun Violence. A full afternoon will be dedicated to conversations on cultural competency, confronting racism and recognizing white privilege.

**Cost:** Standard Registration is \$410. This includes program fee, meals and double occupancy lodging for 3 nights. **Scholarships are available.**

**Location:** Stony Point, NY. To register or to inquire about a scholarship, please email the Registrar at [maryann@presbypeacefellowship.org](mailto:maryann@presbypeacefellowship.org)

#### Other ways to get more involved with PPF?

See p. 2 for Committee contacts—call or email the chairperson and offer to help. We need you.

## How to Get Involved?? See PPF Contacts Below!

**Colombia** –for Accompaniment, Linda Eastwood 216-502-5434 linda@presbypeacefellowship.org - For SOA & Advocacy, Shannan Vance Ocampo 732-895-9083 svanceocampo@gmail.com

**Middle East** Don Mead 231-334-8161 mead@msu.edu

**Peace Community Formation** Contact Dylan Rooke contact@dylanrooke.com 724-561-8970

**Immigration** Parrish Jones parrish@parrishjones.net 904-315-9848 & MaryAnn Harwell 845-786-6743 maryann@presbypeacefellowship.org

**Gun Violence Prevention** Sara Dorrien 404-775-6190 sbdorrien@gmail.com

**Anti-Racism** Abbi Heimach abigail.heimach@gmail.com 317-509-6798

**Development/Endowment Fundraising** Melinda Thompson melinda4994@gmail.com 443-956-8597 This Committee is seeking volunteer/s who can do fundraising grant applications for special programs.

**GA Arrangements** Jessie Light jessie.a.light@gmail.com

**Endowment Investments** Jan Orr-Harter 817-291-3952 janoh4@aol.com

**Climate Change & Conflict** (new) Fritz Gutwein 202-681-3437 fritzg@presbypeacefellowship.org

**Local/Regional Organizing** Eric Garbison jegarbison@gmail.com 913-209-7059

**Violence Against Women/Intimate Partner Violence** Peggy Howland peghowland@aol.com 914-318-3103

**Nominating** Barbara Clawson bnclawson@att.net 336-584-9742

## A PEACEMAKER'S CALENDAR

**May 21st (5pm) - May 25th (1pm)** Colombia Accompaniment Training, Stony Point, NY. Can you give one month to walk with church members in Colombia as an observer and accompanier as they courageously live out the gospel in their nation? Explore this with Linda Eastwood at colombia@presbypeacefellowship.org

**June 4-7, 2015** PPF "Convocation of Peacemakers" Plan to join PPF for this national organizing event in Stony Point, NY as peace and justice activists from across the country gather to explore "The Art of Waging Peace." The **June 4-7** event will feature keynote speaker Paul K. Chappell, Peace Leadership Director for the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation. The preacher for the convocation will be Amal Nassar, a Palestinian Christian who teaches nonviolence at the Tent of Nations, a center for peace-building and nonviolent resistance near Bethlehem in the West Bank. Learn more and sign up at [www.presbypeacefellowship.org/convocation15](http://www.presbypeacefellowship.org/convocation15)

**July 30 – Aug. 1** Big Tent Gathering, Knoxville, TN, Everything about PC(USA) mission and ministry. Register at [www.pcusa.org/bigtent](http://www.pcusa.org/bigtent) See workshop by Mark Davidson and Chris Iosso: "Jesus, Peacekeeping and 14 Years of War: What Would Presbyterians Do?"

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

**Sept. 17-20** Presbyterian Peace Fellowship National Committee Annual Meeting, Stony Point, NY

**Sept. 25-Oct. 18** International Peacemakers Tour Deadline is June 1 to apply for a visit to your area. See [pcusa.org/peacemaking](http://pcusa.org/peacemaking)

**Oct. 4** World Communion Sunday, Peace & Global Witness Offering. See [www.pcusa.org/specialofferings](http://www.pcusa.org/specialofferings)

**Oct. Stony Point, NY** PPF's Second Annual "Anne Barstow & Tom Driver Award for Excellence in Nonviolent Direct Action in Retirement" – Watch for info at [www.presbypeacefellowship.org](http://www.presbypeacefellowship.org)

**Oct. 26-Nov. 6** Presbyterian Peacemaking Program Travel Seminar to Colombia. 888-728-7228 x 8700 or <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/peacemaking/travel-study-seminars/>

**Nov. 20-22** 26<sup>th</sup> Annual School of the Americas Vigil in Ft. Benning, GA. Contact marwhite@igc.org & see [soaw.org](http://soaw.org)

**June 18 - 25, 2016** - 222nd PC(USA) General Assembly, Portland OR

**BRIEFLY** is the newsletter of the  
**Presbyterian Peace Fellowship**  
17 Cricketown Road Stony Point, NY 10980  
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MaryAnn Harwell, Office Administrator  
[ppfwitness@gmail.com](mailto:ppfwitness@gmail.com)  
[maryann@presbypeacefellowship.org](mailto:maryann@presbypeacefellowship.org)

Sarah Prager, Web Content Manager  
[sarah@presbypeacefellowship.org](mailto:sarah@presbypeacefellowship.org)

Fritz Gutwein, Co-Director 202-681-3437  
[fritzg@presbypeacefellowship.org](mailto:fritzg@presbypeacefellowship.org)

Rick Ufford-Chase, Co-Director  
[Rickuffordchase@gmail.com](mailto:Rickuffordchase@gmail.com)

**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. Contact the editors at: Jan Orr-Harter PO Box 930, Aledo, TX 76008 [JanOH4@aol.com](mailto:JanOH4@aol.com) 817-291-3952 & Marilyn White 2705 Edenwood Dr. Austin, TX 78745 [marwhite@igc.org](mailto:marwhite@igc.org) 512-450-2766

**Thank you, Carrie!** Special Thanks to Carrie Dixon, finishing work as PPF's long-time bookkeeper. Carrie has moved away from the Stony Point NY area, but she remains an active Presbyterian peacemaker.

## Two New PPF Affirmations of Faith:

# What We Believe!

*...they shall beat their swords into plowshares,  
... neither shall they learn war any more. -- Micah 4:3  
... all who take the sword will perish by the sword.  
-- Matthew 26:52*

The Presbyterian Peace Fellowship recommits itself to opposing all war. We maintain that the realism of Jesus is more compelling than the so-called realism that attempts to justify war.

The ever-growing destructive power of war threatens to destroy civilization and many forms of life on earth. To avoid that fate and to build peace requires the repudiation of war. It requires not learning war—not learning to think in warlike ways. Instead, it requires learning and practicing nonviolent methods for resisting aggression and injustice. These requirements flow from the nonviolent life of Jesus Christ and from the scriptural affirmation that God is love.

We condemn military action by any party to a conflict, holding it to be usually counter-productive and always contrary to the Christian gospel. We call upon churches and ethicists to reject "just war" theory. It is a trap that has too long ensnared the consciences of Christians. However admirable its principles may be, no real war can adhere to them.

We believe that God calls us to adopt a "preferential option" for the poor and the powerless. We see nonviolence not merely as having value as an end in itself but also as a strategy of direct action against poverty, racism, degradation of the environment and other forms of "structural violence."

We call upon all Christian communities, in particular our own Presbyterian Church (USA), to embrace gospel nonviolence as the only stance consistent with Christian discipleship. We invite all persons of good will, and especially followers of Jesus, to work with us in projects aimed at building peace. The making of peace requires no less courage and self-sacrifice than does the making of war.

Jesus wept over the city of Jerusalem because it did not know "the things that make for peace" (Luke 19:41-43). Our calling is to study the things that do make for peace, to put them into action, and to summon others to do the same.

We proclaim this message of hope for a world transformed.

## The Peacemaker's Creed

(A Resource for Worship)

We follow Jesus of Nazareth, the Prince of Peace.

We are a people of peace, yesterday, today and tomorrow.

We say "no" to war, for war has no power to save us.

We strive to embody the command to love God and neighbor.

We will not be enemies with anyone

not those who believe they are our enemies

not those whom we have been taught to hate

not even those whose actions make us afraid.

We confess our complicity in a world of violence

by believing the lie that violence can restore balance, offer security or establish peace

by accepting the propaganda that nonviolent approaches are ineffective

by squandering vast resources to uphold military might.

We stand with those who have no power

with those displaced or devastated by war and conflict

with those marginalized by systems that oppress them

with those excluded just because of who they are.

We confront injustice

seeking to understand how our own actions provoke conflict

examining circumstances through the lens of scripture

using nonviolent strategies of direct action.

We embrace a life of peacemaking, even knowing that

peacemaking requires humility of spirit

peacemaking requires sacrifice of privilege and power

peacemaking requires acts of great courage, risking suffering and even death.

We commit to bold witness to our church and to the world

reflecting, praying and acting for peace

honoring those who have devoted their lives to the cause of peace and justice

proclaiming that we are – all of us – God's beloved children.

For we belong to God

and give our lives to the hope and possibilities of a world transformed.

# Presbyterian Peace Fellowship Annual Report

## 2014 Donors - *THANK YOU!*

# 2014

*Thank you to each 2014 donor! PPF's work depends entirely on your support.*

*Please forgive and advise PPF on any mistakes or omissions. All 2015 donors will be included in next year's Annual Report.*

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Linda Loving  
Keith Rowe  
Don and Joanne Schalch  
Anneliese Waggoner  
Gertrude Walsh

#### West Virginia

Ray Foss  
Kathryn McCrary

#### Canada

Mary Engelmann

#### Costa Rica

Karla Ann Koll

#### Northern Ireland

Douglas Baker

**In Memoriam**  
PPF National  
Committee Member  
**Tim Simpson, FL**  
Blessed are the  
peacemakers...



PPF Co-Moderator Roger Powers welcomes guests to the GA Peace Breakfast in 2014



One of 7 Peace Communities supported by PPF in celebration of its 70th year, the members of Cherith Brook in Kansas City grow and share food with homeless neighbors and do active resistance to work at the Nuclear Weapons plant in KC.

# 2014 Financial Report Presbyterian Peace Fellowship

Will White, Treasurer

## Income

Operating Funds Gifts	\$154,603
Endowment Disbursement	<u>\$26,282</u>
Total Income:	\$180,885

## Expense

Programs	\$114,978
Administration/Coordination	\$39,802
Fundraising	<u>\$20,986</u>
Total Expense:	\$175,766

Net Operating Income: \$5,119

## Operating Fund

	Cash Balance	Cash Reserve
1-Jan-14	\$187,412	\$0
31-Dec-14	\$87,686	\$38,300

<b>2014 Endowment Fund Gifts</b>	\$25,605
Endowment Fund (12/31/2014)	
Investments	\$560,419
Uninvested Cash	<u>\$200</u>
Total:	\$560,619



2014 Peaceseeker Award Recipient Jim Atwood signs the Legacy of Peace Quilt. Order Jim's book, *America and Its Guns: A Theological Exposé*, by James Atwood, Cascade Books, 2012. Available at amazon.com in print and Kindle or with the publisher's group discounts from WipfandStock.com or 541-344-1528. Companion six session Study Guide for churches at [presbypeacefellowship.org/gun-violence](http://presbypeacefellowship.org/gun-violence)

## Presbyterian Peace Fellowship Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2014

	Dec 31, 2014	Dec 31, 2013 (PY)
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current Assets		
Bank Accounts	\$128,250	\$156,202
Accounts Receivable	\$1,067	\$0
Endowment Fund	<u>\$560,162</u>	<u>\$461,722</u>
Total Current Assets	\$689,479	\$617,925
Total Fixed Assets		
Equipment	\$1,839	\$1,839
Total Other Assets		
Certificates of Deposit	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$49,673</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	\$691,318	\$669,437
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>		
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$1,124	\$0
Payroll Liabilities	\$6	\$922
Retirement Plan Liabilities	\$30	\$30
NYS Disability Payable	<u>\$8</u>	<u>\$8</u>
Total Liabilities	\$1,168	\$960
Equity		
Opening Balance Equity	\$324,743	\$324,743
Retained Earnings	\$343,734	\$186,667
Net Income	<u>\$21,673</u>	<u>\$157,068</u>
Total Equity	\$690,150	\$668,478
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	\$691,318	\$669,437

**San Jose Presbytery** -- *Among Presbyteries that are financial supporters of PPF, "Briefly" spoke with Jim Hagan and Geoff Browning, peacemaking leaders in San Jose Presbytery south of San Francisco.*

**Briefly: Thank you for the San Jose gift to PPF! What is happening with peacemaking in San Jose Presbytery?**

**Jim:** With about 8 or 10 active Task Force members, we are stretched thin, so we focus on what we can do--- mostly serving as a clearinghouse for education resources and for news about what congregations are doing. We also advocate for GA overtures such as the Israel-Palestine divestment action, which really fractured our presbytery, and the fossil fuel divestment overture which we helped to launch in 2014. We have provided scholarships for youth mission trips to El Salvador and Nicaragua. We host speakers from the Presbyterian International Peacemakers and other groups. When all three presbyteries in our area join together to host a speaker, we can help them talk to a lot of people in one visit.

**Geoff:** We also are working on the PC(USA) Peace Discernment Process and on getting congregations to re-affirm commitment to "Peacemaking: The Believers' Calling." At our local church, First Presbyterian in Palo Alto, we considered becoming a "peace church." I did a search for other peace congregations and I could not find a single one! There has been a lot of lost momentum. In order to reclaim our prophetic voice, Presbyterian Peacemaking is something that we need to rejuvenate. At our church, the peace church option was well-received by the session. The congregation is next.

**Briefly: How do we keep peacemaking going and strengthen it?**

**Jim:** It takes a couple of people who are passionate about it. Without that, you can't make it.

**Geoff:** We need to reach out to young people. With our confirmation classes here we promote a conversation with young people about their views on violence and war. We can't tell them what to think, but we can offer different perspectives and create the opportunity for this conversation to happen. We let them know about the Conscientious Objector option as they prepare to register for the draft at age 18. It is something that both boys and girls have to decide for themselves.

**Jim:** For the immediate future, other issues that we are interested in include income inequality, which we have a lot of here in Silicon Valley, and the Human Trafficking issue, especially as it relates to Super Bowl Sunday, which is the day of the most sexual violence, trafficking and forced prostitution for the whole year. The next Super Bowl will be here in Santa Clara so we are working with Presbyterian Women and others to build a campaign on these issues.

*Jim Hagan, retired from High Tech work, serves as Chair of the San Jose Presbytery Peace and Justice Task Group and Geoff Browning serves as the Presbytery Peacemaking Advocate and as Campus Minister at Stanford University.*



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

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



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**PPF Convocation June 4-7  
Still Time to Register!**