



DISCIPLES PEACE FELLOWSHIP ~ FALL 2018

NEWSNOTES

A SEASON OF TRANSITION

It is with bittersweet excitement that we announce a major staff transition at Disciples Peace Fellowship. After 8 years of dedicated service, our Intern Coordinator, Phoebe Spier, is ending her tenure. During Phoebe's time with the Intern Program, many fruitful innovations were implemented, including the mid-summer and end-of-summer de-briefing retreats, Intern presence at racial/ethnic constituency gatherings, closer collaboration with numerous other ministries at Intern training, and the first ever partnership with Global Ministries that had international Missionaries-in-Residence traveling with our Interns. Phoebe's vision, creativity and professionalism were integral to the success of these additions to the program.

Because of the success of last year's Peace Match in giving DPF a more solid financial foundation, we have been able to expand this position to include more of the work that volunteers have been doing. We will be announcing the new Director of Mission Support & Intern Program in the near future. We have planned overlap for the outgoing and incoming DPF staff, so that none of Phoebe's wisdom will be lost.

If you would like to make a donation in Phoebe's honor, we welcome those gifts to our general fund, so we can together ensure adequate funding for the newly expanded position.

JOIN DPF AT SOAW ENCUESTRO

The DPF Executive Committee will be having our fall meeting in Arizona in November, in conjunction with the School of Americas Watch Border Encuentro, Nov. 16-18 in Nogales.

We would love to have you join us for the weekend! Activities include a rally at Milkor USA (an arms manufacturer), a vigil at Eloy Detention Center, workshops, speakers and a concert.

We are collaborating with the InterReligious Task Force on Central America to make arrangements. Contact Chrissy Stonebraker-Martinez at chrissy@IRSTCleveland.org or 216-961-0003 for more information or visit this event link at:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/338222423419551/>

We would love to have you with us!

Hello, Friends!

What can I say? It has been an immense honor and privilege to serve alongside you these past years! You gave me a truly incredible opportunity: to know and love young peacemakers on their journeys, to connect and learn from these inspiring leaders and others in our church and beyond. It is with a bit of sadness but mostly with deep gratitude that I close this chapter in our relationship. My husband and I are now Managing Directors of Moon Beach, a beautiful UCC camp in Northern Wisconsin, where I look forward to working with DPF in a new context. (You're not getting rid of me that easily!) Let us continue to work together and move confidently into comes next!

Blessings, Phoebe

THANKS

TO ALL OF YOU WHO
SENT LETTERS AND
CARDS TO OUR
INTERNS THIS
SUMMER!
YOU ARE A
BLESSING!



*Phoebe's first class of interns from 2011,
Erin Taylor Dickey, Chrissy Stonebraker-
Martinez, & Ben Saunders*

Celebrating Phoebe Spier

The moment I met Phoebe I knew that she belongs at camp. Her spirit is both peaceful and invigorating at the same time. Throughout my time as a peace intern, I was so happy to have her to rely on and vent to. She was there to listen and be of support in any way possible. During our last week of the summer when we got to do some reflecting, I recognized just how much I look up to Phoebe and hope to be as loving, real, and open as she is.

~Grace Tibbetts, 2018 Intern



*2013 Interns, Doug Collins,
Margie Quinn, & Aly Gideon*

I am particularly grateful for Phoebe's invitation to lead a Peace and Justice Bible Study as part of the Intern Training. Phoebe has continued to make the Bible an important part of the Intern Training. I have been honored and humbled to have been asked. Clearly her leadership and coordination has continued to help the interns develop and adapt to the changing circumstances in our church, camp system, and society. In general, I have always enjoyed working with Phoebe. She is a strong and passionate leader, open to other people, fun-loving, but also one who takes Peace and Justice issues and the Peace Intern program seriously.

~Rev. Stephen Yarbrough, Minister, Sheridan FCC



*Phoebe with the 2014 Interns, Jonathan
Cahill, Cara McKinney, & Daniel Lyvers*

We enjoyed working with Phoebe over the years and appreciated her willingness to include a global perspective in the Intern Program. All the best to Phoebe and her family!

~Julia Brown Karimu,
President, DOM

Phoebe Spier has been an inspiration and mentor to two generations of young adults. Her life and message has been singular: to lay down sword and shield; to find connections that unite us in our beautiful diversity; and, to build bridges of understanding that lead to peace. ~Ron Degges, Retired President, DHM

Phoebe has been faithful and dutiful in her service as Intern Coordinator. On behalf of the National Convocation of the Christian Church, I want to say a personal thanks to Phoebe for arranging occasions for the interns meet with me to share the history and current involvement of the National Convocation in the life of the greater church. To see some of the interns actively participating in the Biennial Session of the National Convocation made this a very special experience. Best wishes and success to Phoebe and her future endeavors.

~Timothy James, Administrative Secretary,
National Convocation

Phoebe has creatively expanded the DPF program and has modeled what it means to be an advocate for justice within the organization and beyond it! I am so grateful for her smile, laugh, music, compassion, love and her leadership.

~Chrissy Stonebraker-
Martinez, DPF Co-Moderator



*2012 Interns, Blaine Kuss, Amy
Austin, & Cambria Findley-Grubb*

Intern Coordinator Extraordinaire!



2015 Interns, Will O'Brien, Celia Thomason Acker, Briana Black

Phoebe radiates calmness. On the first day that I arrived in Indianapolis for our week of Peace Intern training, we went to a park and went for a walk. We got to know each other and became comfortable because she emanated calm. She was relaxed and took the time to allow us to walk in the woods, play frisbee, and make music in what little free time we had during our week of training. Phoebe taught me to calmly express my needs and that even as a Peace Intern, it was O.K. to say "no"--and that is a lesson that has served me almost daily since that summer.

~Cara McKinney, 2014 Intern

Phoebe has done this job superbly. It has been a delight to work with her over the years, to see her in the role of mentor to our Summer Peace Interns, as she has helped our Interns to, in turn, be mentors to the youth of our church. Well done, Phoebe. Thank you!

~Bruce Ervin,
Former DPF Co-Moderator

"Joy" is the first word that comes to my mind at the thought of Phoebe Spier. As DPF Intern Coordinator, she has also been reliable, insightful, relatable and completely committed to justice. Her care for the interns is obvious; her passion for justice absolute; her ability to create an effective training demonstrated again and again. And through it all, the smile, the hugs, the laughter, the ... joy. Great job, Phoebe! Thank you!

~Sharon Watkins, Former GMP

One of the greatest gifts that Phoebe offered me was the reminder that the work for justice is hard, but it's okay to laugh and have fun while you do it... oh and the opportunity to hear her crush a Beyoncé song.

~Daniel Lyvers, 2014 Intern



Phoebe with 2016 Interns & Missionaries-in-Residence, Minerva Halteh, Alexis Ofé, Matthew Capestro, Rachel Shomali & Naomi Gonzalez

Phoebe—guided me as an intern of peace/An advocate of justice, mercy, and of the dream that all wars may cease/After hectic days, she played the guitar and gave our souls release

Phoebe—bright light, shining moon/A leader of the church, gives its youth a boon/Wise and spunky, many a hymn and camp song she can croon/You'll be for the better if you meet her soon

~Jonathan Cahill, 2014 Intern



2017 Interns, RJ Howard, Joe Heidenescher, & Claire Cooley

Phoebe has the unique ability to create an environment that is both serious and fun. Being a DPF intern can be really lonely, but knowing that I always had Phoebe there was reassuring and comforting.

~Claire Cooley, 2017 Intern

WHAT YOUR GIFTS MAKE POSSIBLE

Dear Friends of Disciples Peace Fellowship,

In almost every relationship, there is that “aha” moment of friendship. The moment when, if one were to recall the friendship’s early days, it would start with the line, “I knew we were going to be friends because of...” For the three of us, our “aha” moment came during orientation week in Indianapolis. Each of us came into the program with the same fear: How were we qualified enough to lead discussions with youth about peace and justice topics?

Sure, we were informed on our topics; we were not experts, by any means, but we were certainly well-versed. We had planned activities and workshops, printed materials and compiled binders of information. But how could three young adults *do justice* to talking about peace and justice? How could we have discussions with youth who may have never had a setting to talk about privilege, refugee rights, and environmental justice? It was a beautiful moment of vulnerability because each of us wanted to do the best possible work we could this summer, and we didn’t want to fail.

It was in this moment of vulnerability with one another that solidified our friendship. We found relief and guidance from Phoebe, from past Peace Interns, and countless others throughout the summer, but our biggest support was truly each other. We checked in when we arrived at new camps, shared good moments, vented about not so good moments, cried to each other, and sent each other cat videos.

We supported each other in confronting this common fear. This summer introduced us to new ways to look at ourselves, and it affirmed several things about ourselves. This summer affirmed our love of working with youth and doing justice work. It affirmed our love of our spiritual communities. It affirmed that we could run through airports to our connecting gates before the gate closed. It affirmed the fact that we are three strong women that feel compelled to have these conversations about peace and justice, and that we excelled at providing spaces for people to feel comfortable to have those discussions in. It affirmed that we were each strong Peace Interns in our own ways, and this summer truly made each of us stronger mentally, spiritually, emotionally, and perhaps even physically.

This truly was the summer of a lifetime for us, and this could not have been possible without support and contributions from this community. With your continued support, other Peace Interns can experience the summer of a lifetime, and we can continue to affirm young adults in the Disciples community.

Thank you for your generous contributions!

Jasmine Heath,
Grace Tibbetts,
and Sarah Zuniga
The 2018 Disciples Peace Fellowship Interns



*The 2018 Interns, Phoebe’s last class, pictured with
Global Ministries Intern Ricardo Luis Rivera Caraballo.*