



Disciples Peace Fellowship ~ Summer 2018

NewsNotes

Meet the 2018 Interns!

Jasmine Heath



Jasmine is from Richmond, Virginia. She has a BS from Agnes Scott College in astrophysics, with minors in classical civilizations and education. She is finishing a Masters degree in Science Education this spring at Lynchburg College. Jasmine has worked at camps in Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina and Georgia. The justice issues that most animate her work are poverty, disabilities and difference in general and LGBTQ+ issues. She is a hit at talent shows with her animal and Pokemon impressions, but is also very handy to have around while stargazing.

Grace Tibbetts



Grace grew up attending First Christian Church in Independence, Missouri, with her grandparents. She has also been very active with her campus ministry. In the fall, she will be a senior at Avila University in Kansas City, where she studies psychology with a minor in biology. Her home camp is Tall Oaks in Kansas. Grace is passionate about addressing trauma in children, educational inequality and immigration & refugee policies, and she loves leading youth in small group discussions. She was recently given a bucket of string she plans to use for friendship bracelets all summer.

Sarah Zuniga



Sarah hails from the town of Oregon, Illinois. She is graduating from Eureka College with a BS in Environmental Studies and Philosophy/Religion. She will be attending the Divinity School at the University of Chicago in the fall as a Disciples Divinity House Scholar in the MA program. Sarah has worked with an environmental NGO in Ghana and with Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea in Refugee & Immigration Ministries in DC. These experiences and her studies reflect her interest in environmental justice and refugee & immigration rights. She plans to recite song lyrics in a slow, beatnik style for camp talent shows this summer, but she's also really good at arts & crafts.

2018 Summer Intern Itinerary

The Disciples Peace Fellowship Intern Program can only work with the help of countless partners, and we give thanks for all of them! As each summer begins, our Interns gather in Indianapolis for their orientation. They are hosted by Allisonville Christian Church, fed special meals by various DPFers, and trained by countless partners from Disciples Center and beyond. One highlight of this summer's training will be the Missionary Conference sponsored by Global Ministries. A couple more days of workshop preparation, and they're off — scattered to the winds to meet up with youth across the whole church!

As of publication, our interns are confirmed to serve at camps in Alabama-Northwest Florida, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Kansas City, Kentucky, Montana, Nebraska, New York Conference (UCC), North Carolina, Northern California-Nevada, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon-Southwest Idaho, Pacific Southwest, Virginia, and the Wisconsin Conference (UCC). We're still working out details with a couple other Regional camps. DPF will also be represented at the Regional Youth Event in Canada, the National Convocation Biennial Session, the National Hispanic & Bilingual Assembly, and the NAPAD Convocation.

If you have an Intern coming to your Region, we hope you will encourage youth (and counselors) you know to connect with them. If you don't see your Region on this list, please consider contacting your Regional camp organizers and suggesting they apply to host an Intern next year. The scheduling gets more complicated every year, as the summer camp window is closing tighter with school lasting longer and starting earlier, but we try to send someone to every place that requests an Intern. Thanks to everyone who helps make this vital ministry happen!

Dear Intern, How is camp? Have fun! Peace, Your Friend

Last year we asked our friends and supporters to volunteer as pen pals for our Interns for the summer, and the response was AMAZING! Many of you responded and followed through to great effect. Our Interns felt very loved.

We'd like to offer this opportunity again this summer. If you (or your church or youth group) would like to participate, please send an email to Rebecca Littlejohn at pastorbecky@yahoo.com. You can choose the level of commitment that works for you, from sending one letter or card to one intern to sending care packages to all three interns. Once we know what you're up for, we will send you an assignment, including the date for your letter or care package and the intern's name and address for that week.

Everyone loves getting mail at camp, and when you're at camp all summer, it's even more important. Thanks for helping us support our Interns throughout a long, exciting but exhausting summer!

Praying for Peace in Syria

We give thanks for leaders across the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ, who join us in fervent prayer for a just and peaceful resolution to the ongoing conflict in Syria. A statement was recently released by our General Ministers and Presidents and the Co-Executives of Global Ministries sharing our churches' opposition to the recent airstrikes carried out by the US, France and Britain. We join them in calling for an end to violence, renewed commitment to diplomacy, compassionate care for refugees and resources to help the Syrian people rebuild.

You can see the statement at www.globalministries.org/disciples-and-ucc-leadership. We encourage you to share & discuss it.

Wars & Rumors of Wars

There is much to pray for in the realm of international peace-making and American foreign policy these days. With the news shifting so quickly on the currents of cable news-induced Twitter rampages, it's hard to know which issues are of greatest concern on any given day. The amateurish fickleness of our current president even occasionally sows seeds of hope, as in the case of possible peace talks with North Korea. Who would have expected that a year ago?

Yet, the appointment of John Bolton and the nomination of Mike Pompeo are ominous signs for the future. It's always been too much to hope for that we might have a peace-maker in our national security apparatus, but we could usually count on having people involved who had a healthy respect for the rules of engagement and the norms of international diplomacy. It seems the war-mongers now have no one left to get in their way. Bolton and Pompeo are both devoted to ripping up the Iran Agreement of 2015, which our church affirmed as "a sign of hope for peace" shortly after its passage. Meanwhile, behind the spectacle of headline news, the Administration has loosened the rules on sales of various weapons, including armed drones, to foreign governments.

Crises in Syria, Yemen, Gaza, Nigeria, Iraq, Afghanistan, DR Congo and so many other places are growing ever more urgent, and forces of totalitarianism are gaining hold in countries around the world. There are more people displaced from their homes than ever before in history, 65.6 million in 2016.

What does peace-making look like in the face of such a global nightmare? The gospel of peace calls us to hope. It calls us to stand beside our children when they stand up for change in our country's gun laws, recognizing that many in the world (rightfully) see the US as one of the most violent places to live. It calls us to support the small minority of legislators in Congress who continually press for their constitutional rights to have a say in whether and where US troops are deployed. Peace-making is the tedious repetition of phone calls to Senators whose minds are already made up, explaining why Pompeo is the opposite of what we need in the State Department. It's the welcome we offer to refugee families in our communities and whatever advocacy we can muster to increase the numbers of refugees allowed to become our neighbors. In times like these, it's hard to feel our efforts are having any impact, but though we may not see the fruits of our labor, we must not abandon it. Let us mutually encourage one another to stand faithful!

Rev. Rebecca Littlejohn is a member of the DPF Executive Committee and pastors in La Mesa, California.

Praying & Dreaming ~ By Tiffany Curtis

My mother grew up in Baja California, Mexico, easily crossing over to San Diego. My dear friend David* grew up on the border in Matamoros, MX. David's family, like many immigrant families, is "mixed status", and his family seamlessly transitioned from one side to the other, as well. He says one of his primary memories growing up is of crossing the bridge over the border between Mexico and the U.S. over and over again. David is a Dreamer (a recipient of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals - DACA - program). The [Immigration Security and Opportunity Act](#) includes \$25 billion for militarization on the border "in exchange" for a path to citizenship for 1.8 million young immigrants like my friend

David. Dreamers and allies have pushed back against this "compromise" approach - reminding lawmakers and the American public that militarization of the border will lead to more violence, criminalization of migrants, and mass deportations. Please join us in praying and advocating for a peaceful border, where militarism and state violence will not be given free reign over the lives of civilians - whatever their documentation status. Let us pray that people may flow freely once more, without fear.

**name changed*

Rev. Curtis is a member of the DPF Executive Committee and pastors in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Peace Match Exceeds Hopes!

When we announced the Peace Match at the 2017 General Assembly DPF breakfast, we trusted in the generosity of the DPF community that we could match at that time the \$20,000 challenge. By the end of 2017, the Seed Gifts for the Peace Match grew to \$31,100. The commitment of eight individuals & families and your generous response strengthened the mission of Disciples Peace Fellowship. We began 2018 with our strongest financial undergirding in a decade.

WE DID IT TOGETHER! We met generosity with generosity. Thanks to those who said “Yes” to making the Peace Match possible. Thanks to each of you who gave to meet that Peace Match challenge. God’s call to make peace in this world continually asks us to share from our personal resources to do the work.

The seed contributions for the Peace Match were given to celebrate the lives and commitment of:

Joe and Winn Smith, stalwart workers for peace, having lived in a camp in the Philippines for most of WWII, from which they emerged determined to witness for peace for the remainder of their days.

Margaret Harrison, former Regional Minister of the SW Region, and interim minister in Ann Arbor at the end of her ministry.

Andy Nichols, peace and justice advocate, Arizona State Senator and rural health doctor, and beloved husband and father.

Michael Kinnamon

Lindsey & Erin Jacobs, Rick & Diane Spleth, Linda Parker, Lori Adams & Patti Case & Olivia, Joel & Kennedy Shuler Petersen, Karen McClintock & Mick Smith, Roger Wedell, Don & Deborah Morgan Stokes, John & Linda Taufen Walmer, Sue Delap, Carol Barnes, Bill & Carla Carter, Nancy Brink & Maria Perez, Hannah Brink, Tina Heck, Rosy & Allen Cunningham, Megan McClintock, Grant Shuler, Victoria Villareal & Malia.

Your contributions to DPF make a difference in our capacity to grow new leaders for peace and justice work through the DPF Peace Intern Program, in our witness to keep the passion for peace and justice before our Disciples community, and in our response to the continuing issues of making peace in a militarized world. Consider how you might continue to strengthen DPF’s living vision and mission with your contributions. Perhaps you’d like to set up an ongoing monthly or quarterly gift. Or maybe you will consider including DPF in your will or as a beneficiary of an insurance policy or annuity. Your gifts matter!

Support Peace-Making!

We hope you will join us in building on the momentum of our successful Peace Match and continue your faithful support of DPF. Our dream is to move toward a part-time administrative staffer, so our programming can grow beyond what is currently possible with an entirely volunteer team.

You can make donations on our website through PayPal, or use the card & envelope accompanying the hard copy of this newsletter. If you’d like to make a recurring donation, please contact Kelly Harris at Disciples Home Missions to set that up.

If you’d like to make a donation to the Kirby Page Peace Intern Endowment Fund, please send your gift to the Christian Church Foundation, with a note saying what it’s for. You can also designate a gift for the Kirby Page Fund on our website.

Thank You!

If you have already given your gift this year, or if you’re a regular donor, please receive this newsletter as a chance to catch up on the news from DPF, and not an additional request for donations. Our supporters give all throughout the year, so our reminders come all throughout the year in order to make sure we don’t lose touch with you!

If you give monthly and would prefer to receive only one annual tax donation receipt, please contact Kelly Harris at DHM to make that request. Thanks!