



DISCIPLES PEACE FELLOWSHIP ~ FALL 2019

# NEWS NOTES

## General Assembly Follow-Up

Disciples Peace Fellowship used the theme “Women and Just Peacemaking” to organize our work and witness at this Summer’s General Assembly in Des Moines, Iowa. The theme was reflected in our GA Resolution, our DPF Breakfast, our faithful witness in front of the Assembly Hall before each business session & worship service, as well as at the DPF Booth.

### DPF BREAKFAST

Built around stories of women peacemakers, the DPF Breakfast featured a contemplative dialogue on the nature of peacemaking in our times. It was incredible to see the ways people engaged with the stories, shared their own experiences of peacemaking, and called on each other to work for justice. We have 20+ pages of notes from your conversations!



### FAITHFUL WITNESS



DPF Executive Team Members, Supporters and Friends greeted GA attendees each morning and evening on the way in to the Assembly Hall with beautiful posters that lifted up the example and work of different Women Peacemakers from around the world. Thank you to everyone who helped us to bear witness in such a moving and powerful way!

### DPF BOOTH

As always the DPF Booth was a center of activity for peacemakers during General Assembly. Folks had the chance to greet our 2019 Peace Interns, meet our new Mission Director, learn more about our work, and engage in peace practices and peace prayers right in the middle of Assembly.



### DPF-sponsored Resolutions

Disciples Peace Fellowship’s GA Resolution “On Women and Just Peacemaking” passed unanimously! DPF also signed on as a co-sponsor of the GA Resolution “Offering Sanctuary to, and Receiving the Gifts of Transgender and Gender-Diverse People” and that resolution passed with enthusiastic support as well!

#### ON WOMEN & JUST PEACEMAKING

*“BE IT RESOLVED, that the General Assembly join in celebration of the accomplishments and work of women acting as peacemakers around the world.”*

#### RECEIVING THE GIFTS OF TRANSGENDER AND GENDER-DIVERSE PEOPLE

*“BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly calls upon all expressions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to ready themselves to embody God’s fulsome welcome for transgender and gender-diverse people.”*

### AFTER-ASSEMBLY RALLY

Disciples Justice Ministries organized an After Assembly Justice Event at the Iowa Capital. DPF’s Mission Director Brian Frederick-Gray, co-moderator



Chrissy Stonebraker-Martinez, and our 2019 Peace Interns Heidi Holgate, Courtney Sells, and Elsie Croasdale were all in attendance representing Disciples Peace Fellowship in order to bring a word for peace and justice at the Public Witness Event.

## 2019 DPF PEACE AWARD WINNERS

At the DPF Breakfast we presented our 2019 Peace Awards to three remarkable peacemakers.

### MINTA COLBURN WITTKAMPER AWARD WINNER

Minta received the Wittkamper Award in honor of her lifetime commitment to peace and justice. A leader in justice ministries for years at her home church (Eureka Christian Church) and beyond, Minta has been active in peace movements supporting a nuclear freeze, promoting justice in Central America and Palestine, and resisting the global war on terror.



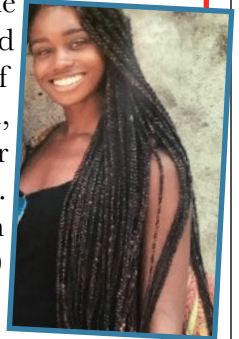
### RITA NAKASHIMA BROCK WITTKAMPER AWARD WINNER

Rita Nakashima Brock offers a continuing and active presence for peace and justice in the world. She serves as Senior Vice President and Director of the Shay Moral Injury Center at Volunteers of America. Rita is the co-author of "Soul Repair: Recovering from Moral Injury after War" and co-founder of the Soul Repair Center at Brite Divinity School.



### NIA SULLIVAN BRATKOVICH AWARD WINNER

The Bratkovich Award is given to a young Disciple whose work and efforts, like those of Todd Bratkovich, embody actions for peace and justice. Nia Sullivan received the 2019 Bratkovich Award. Nia has spent the last several years as a Global Ministries Intern in Sierra Leone and other African nations working on the rights of women and children.



### DPF T-SHIRTS

Get the latest DPF t-shirt at the DHM online store! Sizes Small through 3XL are available for purchase right now for \$18 at:

[www.discipleshomemissions.org/shop](http://www.discipleshomemissions.org/shop)



### UPDATE YOUR BOOKMARKS!

Disciples Peace Fellowship has a new home on the web! Check out DPF's slick updated website and new URL:

[disciplespeace.org](http://disciplespeace.org)



## SAVE THE DATES

### MASS POOR PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY & MORAL MARCH ON WASHINGTON

**When: Saturday June 20, 2020**

Where: The National Mall, Washington, DC

Join directly impacted people, state coordinating committees, moral leaders, hundreds of supporting organizations, and fellow DPF-er's as we organize, march, and demand an end to the war on the poor.



### ECUMENICAL ADVOCACY DAYS

**When: April 24-27, 2020**

Where: Washington, D.C.

Theme: Imagine God's Earth and People Restored!

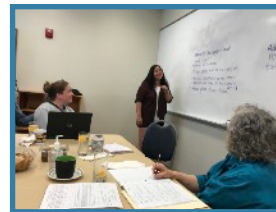
EAD 2020 will explore the intersection of climate change and economic injustice. This focus will galvanize our advocacy on behalf of policies and programs to overcome systems of oppression that push all life on earth to the brink of destruction.



## DPF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FALL RETREAT

The Executive Committee of Disciples Peace Fellowship held our annual Leadership Retreat at Allisonville Christian Church in Indianapolis on September 17-19. It was a time to welcome new leaders to our team, evaluate our work, build relationships at Disciples Center, and chart the course for the future.

During our meeting we reaffirmed our Mission Statement: *Disciples Peace Fellowship is Living Out the Gospel Imperative for Peace and Justice!* We also renewed our commitment to the three verbs that help us bring that mission to life: **equipping, connecting, and advocating**. DPF *equips* individuals, congregations and organizations to pursue peace & justice. We *connect* people and organizations who share in the work of fighting injustice and oppression throughout the world while working for peace. We *advocate* for positive change in the world and walk alongside those who are working for peace and whose voices have been ignored for too long.



## 2019 Intern Updates

Our 2019 Peace Interns (Courtney Sells, Heidi Holgate, and Elsie Croasdale) were incredible! On the road for 11 straight weeks they attended 24 Camps/Conferences in 21 Regions, *plus* Opening and Closing Retreats *plus* General Assembly!



Throughout the summer they presented Workshops on Toxic Masculinity, the Peace Process in Columbia, LGBTQI+ Inclusion, Pronoun Inclusion, Addiction, and Story Telling in Justice Work. Our Peace Interns also offer an important pastoral role where campers with justice issues on their heart or personal experiences of oppression feel safe to talk with them.



Read about their remarkable experiences on the Peace Intern Blog at:

[www.disciplespeace.org/follow-the-interns](http://www.disciplespeace.org/follow-the-interns)

## DPF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chrissy Stonebraker-Martinez, Co-Moderator

Doug Collins, Co-Moderator

Kristen Walling, Secretary | Mary Jacobs, Treasurer

LaTaunya Bynum | Brian Carr | Timothy Murphy





Jinseok Cheon | Tiffany Curtis | Derek Penwell

Mae Margaret Davis | Delesslyn Kennebrew

Krista Johnson, Global Ministries Liaison

Brian Frederick-Gray, DPF Mission Director

## KEEP UP WITH DPF!

-  facebook: /disciplespeace
-  twitter: @DPFtweets
-  instagram: @DisciplesPeace
-  website: [disciplespeace.org](http://disciplespeace.org)



## Year End Financial Gifts

Your faithful financial support pays for everything you are reading about in this edition of New Notes! You can mail a check to DPF in the enclosed envelope or you can give online at [www.disciplespeace.org/take-action](http://www.disciplespeace.org/take-action)  
Thanks for supporting Disciples Peace Fellowship!



# A Word from a Friend

Dear Friends of Disciples Peace Fellowship,

Your support made our experiences as 2019 DPF Peace Interns possible! Here is a quick word from each of us:

## Elsie Croasdale



*I cannot stress the importance of the Peace Fellowship enough – in the lives of the young members of the denomination that we serve, as well as in my own life. It's an incredible opportunity to be able to travel the country sharing the things that mean the most to you and truly pouring your heart out in service to others. I saw the youth open up in difficult conversations, I saw them engage in soul care for themselves and others, and I saw them passionately discuss what peace and justice looks like in our world. A fire from my youth was reignited in me when I listened to the power and wisdom that is held in the young voices at camps all across the country. We need to engage them in honest meaningful conversation, and we need to support initiatives that seek to incorporate people in an intergenerational manner. Then, perhaps the wider church will become touched by their words the way that I was this summer.*

## Courtney Sells

*I am a different person now than I was at the beginning of my Peace Intern summer. I was constantly challenged to grow, think differently about justice, and always asked to pursue more. Between the flights, campfires, and never-ending loop of camp songs stuck in my head, I found myself stretching in ways I didn't know I could. I found myself residing in a peacefulness and contentment I didn't know existed. Through leading workshops on LGBTQIA+ pronoun inclusion and breaking down gender binaries, I was able to hear a plethora of stories from young people who face these issues in their lives. This summer taught me that peace is an experience that meets you where you are and that justice is imperative to continuing Jesus's narrative. Not only did I gain an immense love for this work, but I also gained two best friends who went through this experience with me and I have been made better through their friendship.*



## Heidi Holgate



*As a Peace Intern, one of my biggest preaching points centered on identity and storytelling. I explained empathy and communication through the lens of stereotyping. This is something that lands near and dear to my heart. Maybe it's our country's political climate or the rise of social media, but people in our society have a crippling inability to enter into vulnerable spaces with one another. We don't talk to each other anymore. We don't ask questions or share stories. So many people feel alone. I believe peace is something that blooms from within; you can't have genuine peace with others until you've found peace within yourself. Every camp was unique in its own way, but I found one universal truth across the board—camp is always the safest place in the world for young people. Ultimately, authenticity is all any of us can ever ask of one another. And that's a lesson I'm learning to breathe life into.*

It is the faithful support and financial generosity of the DPF Members and Friends that underwrites the Peace Intern Program! You can make a secure gift online by visiting [disciplespeace.org/take-action](https://disciplespeace.org/take-action) and making a donation. Or you can fill out the donation card in this edition of the NewsNotes and send it along with your check in the included envelope [mailing address: Disciples PeaceFellowship, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), PO Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206]. Thank you for your generosity and support!

In Christ,  
2019 DPF Peace Interns Courtney Sells, Heidi Holgate, and Elsie Croasdale