



DISCIPLES PEACE FELLOWSHIP ~ SPRING 2019

# NEWSNOTES

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY

There will be so many exciting ways to connect with Disciples Peace Fellowship at this Summer's 2019 General Assembly in Des Moines, Iowa!

### BREAKFAST

Join us for our Breakfast Meeting & Worship Service on Sunday morning @ 7AM in the Convention Center. The service will be a contemplative dialogue about the nature of peacemaking in our times as a way of helping us cast a vision for peacemaking for the years to come. Tickets are \$25 and are available @ the Assembly website.

### WORKSHOP

DPF will be presenting a Workshop on Sunday from 3:00-4:30 titled "Practical Strategies for Building Unity & Justice in Your Congregation". Please join us and add your experience & wisdom to the conversation!

### WITNESS

Plans are being made to bear public witness to the work of peacemaking during the course of our time together in Des Moines. More details to come!

### DPF BOOTH

And of course, we hope you will come visit us at our booth in the Exhibit Hall, where you can greet the 2019 Peace Interns, meet our new Mission Director, and learn more about our work. You can also get a DPF t-shirt, make new friends and more!

*Learn more about General Assembly, Register to Attend, and Buy Tickets for the DPF Breakfast at*

**[ga.disciples.org](http://ga.disciples.org)**



## DPF-sponsored Resolutions

Disciples Peace Fellowship enthusiastically signed on in support of the GA Resolution "Offering Sanctuary to, and Receiving the Gifts of Transgender and Gender-Diverse People" submitted by Galileo Christian Church. DPF also crafted our own GA Resolution entitled "On Women and Just Peacemaking". Here is a sampling from each of those resolutions:

### 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 and their families through education, shifts in institutional language and practice, and the cultivation of trusting relationships with transgender and gender-diverse people and their families."

### 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."

## DPF T-SHIRTS

Just can't wait until General Assembly to buy a DPF t-shirt? Did you know you can get the latest DPF t-shirt at the DHM online store?



At only \$18 apiece, sizes Small through 3XL are available for purchase online at:

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

## DPF Invests in the CCF's Newest Fund

During our January conference call the Executive Committee of Disciples Peace Fellowship took official action to move our accounts and holdings into the Bostick Select Fund — a new, socially screened fund at the Christian Church Foundation. The Executive Team agreed that this new fund reflects the virtues and values of DPF, and as such is an investment vehicle that best fits our organization.

The Bostick Select Fund upholds the Christian Church Foundation's commitment to being an active, faith-based investor, while particularly excluding any investments in fossil fuels, weapons manufacturers, and companies targeted for divestment because of their involvement in perpetuating the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The Fund actively invests in environmentally sustainable companies as well as those responsibly responding to an increasing global population.

The Bostick Select Fund is named in honor of the ministry of the Reverend Sarah Lue Bostick, one of the first African American women ordained in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Rev. Bostick served the church for over 40 years until her retirement. She was a devoted worker for Christian Woman's Board of Missions and the National Christian Missionary Society. Disciples Peace Fellowship is honored to be among the very first organizations to invest in the Bostick Select Fund.



With the Application Deadline passing on 2/10, the DPF Intern Selection Committee is working to choose our 2019 Interns.

Thank you to Brian Carr, Tiffany Curtis, Brian Frederick-Gray and Doug Collins for your hard work on the Selection Committee!

A full introduction of this year's Peace Interns will be coming out in the next edition of the News Notes!

### UPDATE YOUR BOOKMARKS!

DPF has a brand new website! Thanks to Brian Carr, Disciples Peace Fellowship has a slick new website with a new URL:

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

### PEACE INTERN PEN PALS!

For the past two years DPF has asked our friends and supporters to volunteer as Pen Pals for our Interns for the summer. The response has been **amazing**! Many of you responded and followed through to great effect. Our Interns certainly felt your love and support.

So, we are continuing the Peace Intern Pen Pals Program 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](mailto: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!



## ECUMENICAL ADVOCACY DAYS

Mark the date! We would love to have a strong DPF presence at the Ecumenical Advocacy Days for Global Peace with Justice, April 5-8, in Washington DC.

The theme for 2019 is "Troubling the Waters for the Healing of the World." It is inspired by leaders such as John Lewis and has the hashtag **#GoodTrouble**.

Confirmed speakers for this important gathering include:

**Rev. Teresa Hord Owens**, Disciples General Minister and President; **Rev. Dr. Raphael G. Warnock**, Senior Pastor, the Historic Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta; **Rev. Dr. Liz Theocharis**, Co-chair, The Poor People's Campaign; **David LaMotte**, award-winning songwriter, activist, speaker and author; **Rev. Adam Taylor**, Executive Director, Sojourners; and, **Rev. Jennifer Butler**, Founder and CEO, Faith in Public Life, just to name a few.

Through worship, educational/training workshops, and advocacy, we will beckon the Spirit to "Trouble the Waters" as depicted in John 5:1-9, calling on God to bring healing to our nation and world. Join us as we envision and train for new ways to stir up **#GoodTrouble** for the healing of all God's children.

Visit [www.advocacydays.org/2019-troubling-the-waters](http://www.advocacydays.org/2019-troubling-the-waters) for more information about the event including the schedule, registration, and housing information.



## A Word of Thanks



Disciples Peace Fellowship owes a huge debt of gratitude to the Rev. Rebecca Littlejohn who has served as the Editor for the News Notes for the past three-and-a-half years.

Through these pages Rebecca has helped to keep DPF's friends and supporters in the loop on important justice issues, introduced us to several summers worth of Peace Interns, and spread the word on the good things that DPF has been up to.

As part of his job description, our new Mission Director, Brian Frederick-Gray will be taking over the reigns as the Editor of the News Notes.

Thank you, Rebecca! We are forever grateful for your service!

## CONGRATULATIONS!

On January 20, one of our former Peace Interns, Jonathan Cahill, was ordained in Christian ministry at University Christian Church in Chicago!

Rev. Jonathan served as a Peace Intern in 2014. Congrats and blessings in your ministry!



## INF Treaty

On February 1, 2019 the Trump administration announced that the U.S. will leave the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty with Russia.

Disciples Peace Fellowship is committed to doing everything we can to stand against a head-long rush into a renewed nuclear arms race. The pathway to peace is not paved with ballistic missiles and threats of mass destruction, but rather with justice, equity, compromise and compassion. Let us stand together in resisting the ways of war, militarism, and nuclear proliferation.

# A Word from a Friend

Dear Friends of Disciples Peace Fellowship,

I'll never forget the look of delight and interest on a young high schooler's face when I posed the question to my small group workshop. It was something to the effect of, "Do you think Jesus is against the current war in Iraq?"

The question was, as it seemed, imminently contentious. It was a hot button issue that the whole church seemed to just want to dance around, if I may be so blunt. As I quickly found as I traveled from camp to camp, such a question was simply something that had never really been framed so plainly "right in front" like that before.

It was 2009 when I made my trek across the country as a proud patch-wearing, guitar-toting Peace Intern. The war in Iraq was something teenagers had grown up with to be the norm. Yet as I had found, in most circles and schools around the country, campers I would meet along the way were never given a space to talk about the difficulties of war, much less the chance to talk about what it means to be a maker of peace as Christ leads us. That contentious conversation (that argument I dreaded each time I knew I was about to bring the subject up anew) ended up being the most transformational time for not only the campers, but for the counselors and for myself.

Each subject - and many subjects indeed arose! - was presented with curiosity and wonder. We made a commitment to approach these sacred talks with a non-judgmental attitude toward ourselves and others. We talked about really difficult things. We shared our passion for understanding each other and kids would leave wanting to learn more about what it means to work for peace - wanting to better understand racism and sexism, inquiring more about queer violence. They wanted to pursue questions more deeply about the role our faith plays in actively rejecting all forms of violence and instead opting to live another way. The ripple effect of transformational experiences are what I believe at the core of what it means to be in Christian community. For those who have never had the joy of attending a camp, let me be the first to share that the kind of community such an event creates; a time away with focus on being community.

We share in this ministry as Disciples Peace Fellowship by offering our interns' energy, passion, skills, and bravery to continue these transformational conversations. We know this investment is one that is worth supporting. The investment of sowing seeds of peace and creating communities of understanding, mutual respect and support in the name of God is one we are proud to call the **Kirby Page Fund**. At the 2015 General Assembly, DPF officially launched the Kirby Page Peace Intern Permanent Fund. It is our hope that this Fund will eventually fully fund our summer Peace Intern program by creating enough interest income to fund three interns each year in perpetuity! You'll find a Kirby Page Fund envelop included in this edition of the News Notes. Know that your contribution will make a real and profound difference!



For the many ways you give to support the mission of building God's peace, we thank you for your generosity. We also ask for your prayers for our interns who will continue this wonderful legacy this coming Summer.

In Christ,  
Rev. Doug Collins,  
DPF Executive Team Member & 2009 DPF Peace Intern