



DISCIPLES PEACE FELLOWSHIP ~ SUMMER 2019

# NEWS NOTES

## Meet the 2019 DPF Peace Interns!

### Elsie Croasdale



Elsie just finished her Junior year at Eureka College where she is majoring in History & Political Science (Pre-Law). She plans on attending Law School in order to become a Civil Rights and Human Rights lawyer. A native of Mapelton, Illinois, in her application she wrote, *"My church was the first place that I felt truly connected to a social justice calling."* That passion for social justice and servant leadership has defined her time at Eureka College where she is Student Body President and serves as a student rep on the college's Inclusive Excellence Working Group (which seeks to build bridges and celebrate all forms of diversity on campus). As a Reagan Leadership Scholar at Eureka she has volunteered as a church Youth Group Leader and a Crisis Counselor with the Crisis Text Line. Her freshman year she joined Eureka Christian Church's delegation to the Women's March in Washington, D.C.

### Heidi Holgate



Heidi grew up attending First Christian Church in Glasgow, Kentucky. Her home church camp is Camp Kum-Ba-Ya. She has completed her Junior Year at Western Kentucky University, and she is studying English (Creative Writing) with a minor in Film Studies. At WKU she serves as a peer mentor and tutor for students on the Autism spectrum. Last summer she served as a Youth Development Counselor at The Center for Courageous Kids, a residential medical camping facility that serves children living with a terminal or life-threatening illnesses. About that experience she writes, *this camp "showed me that our unique traits are to be embraced and that a vast amount of joy can grow from a place of acceptance and celebration of our differences."* Heidi loves to read, paint, write, and be outside any time she can. She confesses that she is obsessed with Fred Rogers and the Enneagram!

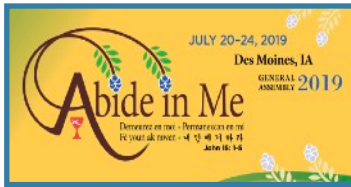
### Courtney Sells



Courtney hails from Livingston, Tennessee. A church camp enthusiast since the 2nd Grade, she grew up at Bethany Hills where Peace Interns were often on staff. *"Their passion for camp ministry and how it effects the world around us sparked a fire inside of me,"* she writes. A rising Senior at Centre College majoring in English, she joined her school's study abroad program in Strasbourg, France (home of the European Court of Human Rights) where she worked on human rights cases. Last summer Courtney served as an Intern at Christmount where her passion for sustainability and environmental justice deepened. Her experiences as a HELM Leadership Fellow have further equipped her as an advocate for justice, particularly around issues of mental health as well as addiction. As an avid hiker she has climbed more than twenty-five mountains in the last four years!

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY

There are so many exciting ways to connect with DPF at General Assembly this summer!



### BREAKFAST

Join us for our Breakfast Meeting & Worship Service on Sunday morning @ 7AM in the Convention Center. Building on our GA Resolution, the service will use the story of a female peacemaker as the jumping off point for contemplative conversations about the nature of peacemaking in our times. It will be prayerful, reflective, and empowering! Tickets are \$25 and are available @ the General Assembly website.

### DPF RESOLUTION

DPF submitted a Sense of the Assembly Resolution entitled "On Women and Just Peace Making." You can read the full resolution here:

[ga.disciples.org/resolutions/2019/ga-1930](http://ga.disciples.org/resolutions/2019/ga-1930)

### DPF 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!

### JUSTICE MINISTRIES WORKSHOP

DPF will be partnering with other Disciples Justice Ministries for a Workshop on Monday from 1:30-4:30PM. We will showcase all of the justice ministries in our church allowing each one a chance to introduce themselves before moving into "mini" panels to learn/engage further.

### PUBLIC WITNESS EVENT

DPF will be joining other Disciples Justice Ministries for a Public Witness Event at the Iowa Capital following the General Assembly closing Worship on Wednesday June 24.

### 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, catch up with old friends, buy a t-shirt, and learn more about DPF's work!

## 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?

Sizes Small through 3XL are available for purchase right now for \$18 online at:

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



## UPDATE YOUR BOOKMARKS!

Disciples Peace Fellowship has a new home on the web! Thanks to Executive Committee Member Brian Carr, DPF has a slick new website with a new URL:

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

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY PUBLIC WITNESS EVENT

The justice ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will be making our voices heard in Des Moines! Just after the assembly closes at 11AM on Wednesday July 24, the Public Witness Event will occur around noon at the Iowa Capital.



Come join participants from Disciples Peace Fellowship, Green Chalice, Disciples Public Presence, AllianceQ, Disciples Center for Public Witness, the National Benevolent Association and more at this Public Witness Event.

Interested participants can board shuttles at the Convention Center or drive to Capitol Hill Lutheran Church, 511 Des Moines Street, Des Moines, IA 50309, for sign-making and to prep for the event.

Learn more by visiting:

[ga.disciples.org/schedule/  
after-assembly-rally](http://ga.disciples.org/schedule/after-assembly-rally)

## NEW GUN VIOLENCE RESOURCE

Don't know how to Approach Gun Safety and Gun Violence Prevention Ministry in your Congregation?

Rev. Kate Epperly, Senior Advisor on Family and Children's Advocacy at the Disciples Center for Public Witness, recently produced an intergenerational gun safety/gun violence prevention resource.

*"As parents, grandparents, pastors, and faith formation leaders we are called to provide safe places for children, youth and adults together to share their concerns and be empowered spiritually in very specific ways to conquer their fears and take effective action for peace and justice. Getting beyond polarization and incivility in our responding to diverse perspectives in our congregation is often difficult but our times call us to rise to the challenge!"*

This brand new resource is online as a downloadable booklet from the DHM Family and Children's Ministries website: [www.docfamiliesandchildren.org](http://www.docfamiliesandchildren.org).

A Faith-Based  
Intergenerational  
Resource for  
Conversation and Action to  
Prevent Gun Violence



by Rev. Kate Epperly, D. Min. Director, Justice  
and Advocacy, Ministries Across Generations,  
kepperly@dcm.disciples  
www.docfamiliesandchildren.org

DHM Disciples Home Missions  
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
Disciples Center  
PO Box 1586  
Indianapolis, IN 46206-1986

## Global Fragility Act

The world is facing a 25-year peak in violent conflict – trapping millions of civilians in conflict and uprooting 66 million people from their homes.

Over the past two years, a coalition of peacebuilding, humanitarian, and faith-based organizations have drafted a bill that would address the root causes of violence and fragility. The resulting legislation has been introduced in both the House and Senate as the **Global Fragility Act** ([H.R. 1580/S.727](#)). This bill would require the U.S. government – in collaboration with civil society – to develop a 10 year strategy to enhance stability and to reduce violence and fragility around the world.

We know that too much foreign assistance and Pentagon spending is spent on treating the symptoms of violence instead of its causes. By passing this law, the U.S. will be able to more effectively prevent violence around the world and reduce its enormous cost on families.

Learn more & to sign on in support at:  
[AllianceForPeacebuilding.org/  
GlobalFragilityAct](http://AllianceForPeacebuilding.org/GlobalFragilityAct)

## CONGRATULATIONS!

DPF Executive Committee Member Fiyori Kidane was awarded the "Religious Life Leadership Award" this Spring at TCU's University Leadership Banquet for her work with Disciples on Campus, Word of Truth Gospel Choir, her work in the Office of Church Relations, and all of her work on behalf of the wider church (including Disciples Peace Fellowship!).

We are so very proud of you, Fiyore, and grateful for your faithful leadership!



## Keeping Up with the Interns

This summer our DPF Peace Interns will be traveling to 24 different Disciples Camps and Conferences, across 20 different Regions (plus General Assembly!).

As in summer's past, this year's Peace Interns will be blogging throughout the summer — sharing details of the experience, highlights from the summer, and reflections on the Gospel imperative for peace and justice! You can follow along all summer at the DPF Website:

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



# A Word from a Friend

Dear Friends of Disciples Peace Fellowship,  
Greetings from Training Week!

As you are reading this our wonderful 2019 DPF Peace Interns are traveling the country going from camp to camp spreading the gospel imperative for peace and justice. But as I am writing this, I'm at the Retreat House at Allisonville Christian Church in Indianapolis right in the middle of my very first Peace Intern Training Week.

And I've gotta tell ya: It is amazing!

Every May the Peace Interns gather for a week of preparation and formation before they hit the road for a summer full of campfires and cabins, airports and home hospitality, fabulous workshops and faithful witness. This year we gathered in Indianapolis for an extraordinary week. We sat down with church leaders at Disciples Center, enjoyed a pizza luncheon with General Minister and President Terri Hard Owens, learned Peace Practices, engaged in a Social Justice Bible Study, developed workshops, learned faith-filled self-care techniques, and took part in Anti-Racism Pro-Reconciliation Training as well as Healthy Boundary Training.

And here is the thing: We could NOT have done it without you!

It is the faithful support and financial generosity of the DPF Members and Friends that underwrites everything we do...especially Training Week! Your gifts pay for the airfare and the mileage reimbursements that brought our Peace Interns to Indy. They pay my salary when I'm sending all the emails and making all the phone calls to set up each one of the incredible meetings we've had. Your generosity puts food on our table during Training Week (and I mean this literally; the Interns and I sat down just about every single night to a home cooked meal that I prepared for them in the Retreat House kitchen!).

Plus, that is only the start of the summer. Your faithful support and financial generosity also pays for the summer stipend that each Peace Intern receives. It covers the cost of the airline tickets that take them from camp to camp. It pays for General Assembly registrations and a hotel room in Des Moines this summer so that they can further connect with the wider church. You help make all of this happen, and for that we say, "Thank you!"

Your gifts and generosity are making a real, tangible difference in this world. Our wonderful 2019 Peace Interns are better prepared and equipped for this summer because of you. Trust me, I've seen it first hand at Training Week!

Oh, and if you're reading this letter thinking "Huh, I'm not sure I've given to Disciples Peace Fellowship lately..." then know that making a financial gift has never been easier. 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 (for future reference, the mailing address is: Disciples PeaceFellowship, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), PO Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206!).

Thank you for your generosity and support. I'm going forward from Training Week more inspired than ever by the amazing things happening in our church and by the wonderful work of Disciples Peace Fellowship. Work that you help make happen!



In Christ,  
Rev. Brian Frederick,  
DPF Director of Mission Support and the Peace Intern Program