



DISCIPLES PEACE FELLOWSHIP ~ SPRING 2020

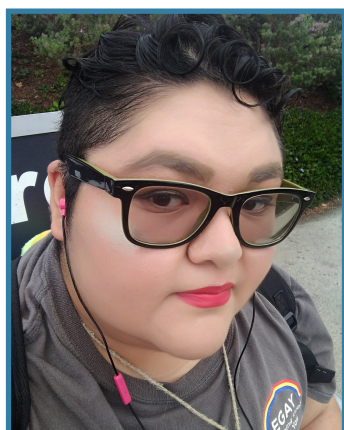
# NEWSNOTES

## Meet the 2020 DPF Peace Interns!



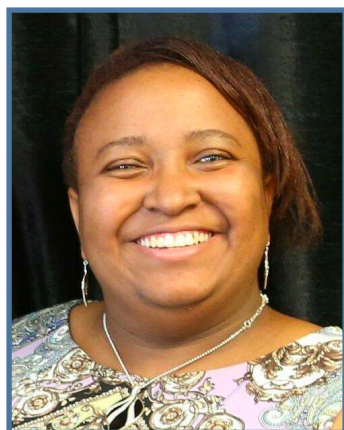
### WENDY DAVIDSON (SHE/HER)

Wendy is completing her Master of Divinity degree at Brite Divinity School and is a member of Galileo Christian Church. She grew up attending church camps at Disciples Crossing in North Texas and is currently serving as pastor of a Disciples congregation in the West Texas town of Woodson (population 264). A graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, Wendy majored in Biomedical Engineering, with a focus on computer programming and data analytics (*"The logical precursor to seminary!"* she jokes). Her deep-seated respect for science and data gives Wendy a particular passion for the environment and *"our responsibility to care for the Earth as co-Creators with God of the world that God still loves."* Wendy is also an ardent advocate for LGBTQIA+ rights as well immigration reform.



### RAPHAEL GUILLEN (THEY/THEM OR AE/AER/AERS)

A first year MDiv. student at Iliff School of Theology, Raphael lives in San Diego, CA and is a member of MissionGathering. Originally from the Bay Area they earned their undergraduate degree at San Francisco State University with a BA in Women and Gender Studies. Raphael sees the Peace Intern Program as a wonderful opportunity to connect with the wider church, discern their future path in ministry, and spend the summer having the kind of justice-centered conversations that are their favorite thing to engage in. Raphael is a passionate advocate for trans rights and has a love for open source technology. Combining their interests in technology and social justice, Raphael taught a class in undergrad called "Cyberfeminism" about the intersection between the internet/technology and feminism.



### JENNIFER WILLIAMS (SHE/HER)

Jennifer is completing her year as an NBA Xplor Resident in northeast Ohio and is currently a member of Hiram Christian Church. Originally from New Orleans, Jennifer is a graduate of Lynchburg University. In college she majored in chemistry and a minored in creative writing, and came to know and love the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) through her work with the campus chaplain. Jennifer's science background has led her to focus on climate change as a major justice issue. In describing this past year as an Xplor Resident Jennifer writes, *"I love warmth and when I cannot get it from mother nature, I get it from people. My spiritual journey has definitely deepened since being here and seeing God's Light shine through God's people. I feel like Jennifer 2.0!"*

## UPCOMING DPF EVENT: PASSING THE PEACE!

Thanks to a generous grant from Week of Compassion, Disciples Peace Fellowship is planning an intergenerational peacemakers training event called **"Passing the Peace!"**

Our grant proposal originally called for this training event to take place in Washington D.C. a day before the Poor People's Assembly & Moral March, but since that event is transforming into a digital event in response to the COVID-19 pandemic (see below), our **"Passing the Peace!"** event will have to transform as well.

The 2020 Peace Interns, our DPF Mission Director Brian Frederick-Gray, and a small group from the DPF Executive Committee are hard at work putting together the program, re-scheduling the event, and determining the best ways to share the training as an online experience.

You can learn more about the **"Passing the Peace!"** training, sign up to receive further information, and register for the event at:

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



## AN UPDATE FROM THE POOR PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN

The Poor People's Assembly & Moral March on Washington on June 20, 2020 will *not* be postponed but instead will be transformed! The entire event is going digital! Below is a full update from the organizers:

### Poor People's Campaign

#### A NATIONAL CALL for MORAL REVIVAL

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

On **June 20th**, we will hold the largest **digital and social media gathering** of poor and low wealth people, moral and religious leaders, advocates, and people of conscience in this nation's history. A global pandemic is exposing even more the already existing crisis of systemic racism, poverty, ecological devastation, the war economy and militarism, and the distorted moral narrative of religious nationalism. **On June 20, the 140 million poor and low-wealth people across this nation will be heard!**

REPAIRERS  
OF THE BREACH

KAIROS  
THE CENTER FOR  
RELIGIOUS, RIGHTS,  
AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

#### IN THE MIDST OF CHANGING TIMES, OUR MOVEMENT CONTINUES...

...because we won't be silent anymore.

...because everybody has a right to live.

...because poor and low wealth people will suffer most in this crisis.

...because our demands must remain front  
and center in this critical election year.



*We will not be able to gather physically in Washington DC due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but it is still paramount that we have a forum where poor and low-wealth people can share their truths with a nation that needs her heart broken open.*

*If there was ever a time for a massive outcry, it's right now. People are hungry for bold, visionary solutions, not just to this current crisis, but to systemic racism, poverty, ecological devastation, the war economy and the distorted moral narrative of religious nationalism. Poor and low-wealth people know the solutions we need.*

*Stay tuned for more about how we are transforming our vision to adapt to the digital space. We may be isolated, but we remain united!*

*Forward together,*

**The Poor People's Campaign:**

**A National Call For Moral Revival**

Twitter: @UniteThePoor | Facebook: @anewppc | Website: [poorpeoplescampaign.org](http://poorpeoplescampaign.org)



## PEACE INTERNS IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

In light of the growing coronavirus pandemic, Disciples Peace Fellowship is exploring new and different ways that our 2020 Peace Interns will be able to “live out the Gospel imperative for Peace and Justice.”

At the time we are publishing this Spring 2020 Edition of the NewsNotes the church camps that we partner with are unsure of what they will do this summer. Some are considering cancelling entirely, some may reschedule for later in the summer, and some are exploring the feasibility of “online only” models. In this moment of social distancing where travel is necessarily restricted and we show our care for our communities by sheltering at home it simply does not seem possible or prudent for Peace Interns to crisscross the country from church camp to church camp.



So we are in the process of reimagining the Peace Internship for this summer. Wendy, Raphael, and Jennifer are all on board for this new challenge and looking forward to working in innovative ways with new ministry partners. They each bring unique and wonderful skills that we will be showcasing and sharing with the wider church in a number of ways...that we are still figuring out. Members of the DPF Executive Committee (Chrissy Stonebraker-Martinez, Kristen Walling, Mae Margaret Davis, and Krista Johnson) are working with our DPF Mission Director Brian Frederick-Gray and our 2020 Peace Interns to develop a new, inspiring, and effective model for the Peace Internship for these uncertain times of the coronavirus.

You will be able to learn more about what the 2020 DPF Peace Interns will be up to, and then follow along with them throughout the summer by visiting our Peace Intern Blog at :

*[disciplespeace.org/follow-the-interns](https://disciplespeace.org/follow-the-interns)*

### DONATE ONLINE TO DPF

Our friends at DHM make it super easy to securely give online to Disciples Peace Fellowship! Simply click the “**Donate Now**” button at:



*[disciplespeace.org/give](https://disciplespeace.org/give)*

The website also makes it easy to sign up for monthly automatic giving, which really helps DPF by creating a consistent revenue stream all year long!

### UPDATE YOUR BOOKMARKS!

Disciples Peace Fellowship has a great website along with a new primary email address! Check out DPF's slick updated website & reach out to our Mission Director the Rev. Brian Frederick-Gray:



*[www.disciplespeace.org](http://www.disciplespeace.org)*  
&  
*[missiondirector@disciplespeace.org](mailto:missiondirector@disciplespeace.org)*

### KEEP UP WITH DPF!



facebook: /disciplespeace



twitter: @DPFtweets



instagram: @DisciplesPeace



website: [disciplespeace.org](https://disciplespeace.org)



email: [missiondirector@disciplespeace.org](mailto:missiondirector@disciplespeace.org)



*Disciples Peace Fellowship:  
Living Out the Gospel  
Imperative for Peace  
and Justice!*



# A Word from a Friend

Dear Friends of Disciples Peace Fellowship,

Every year at Training Week we tell the Peace Interns: ***"It is all about Flexibility."*** It becomes our mantra.

That is more true this year than ever.

When our 2020 Peace Interns filled out their applications months ago we thought we knew exactly what their summer would look like — Training Week in Indy, Church Camps all over the US and Canada, a Massive Justice Event in Washington D.C., and a General Church Event on TCU's campus. With the coronavirus pandemic turning everything upside down, the 2020 Peace Interns are suddenly looking at a job that will be very different than the one they applied for. The Poor People's Assembly has been re-envisioned as an online experience. *It's Real - The 2020 Experience* has been indefinitely postponed. Regions are unsure what their summer camps will look like, if they are allowed to be held at all.

It's all about Flexibility.

I'm grateful to share that our 2020 Peace Interns have not wavered in their commitment to peace and justice and in their hopes for doing meaningful, inspiring work this summer. Indeed, their energy and enthusiasm has been inspiring me in these trying and uncertain times.

We have a team of committed folks working with the 2020 Peace Interns to reimagine what their summer will look like (see *Peace Interns in the Time of COVID-19*), and I'm sure you want to support them as well! Here are a few things you can do for our 2020 Peace Interns:

## 1. Pray

Your prayerful, spiritual support means the world to the Peace Interns. As you are comfortable, and in whatever way works for you please pray for our 2020 Peace Interns by name: Wendy Davidson, Raphael Guillen, and Jennifer Williams. Pray that they might feel the blessings of God's unending love, and that they might be powerful ambassadors for peace and justice this summer.

## 2. Be a Peace Intern Pen Pal

For the last several summers we have invited folks to send care packages to our Peace Interns at the different camps they were attending. We'll be reimaging that program as well. While the care packages might look different (they won't need as much sunscreen or bug spray!) your words of encouragement, care, and support are needed more now than ever. Please visit [disciplespeace.org/penpal](https://disciplespeace.org/penpal) to learn more and to sign up.

## 3. Donate

Your financial contributions make the Peace Intern Program happen. As we are working to reimagine the 2020 Peace Interns' experience, know that it is your generous contributions that allow us to do that, and allows them to do their work. You can visit [disciplespeace.org/give](https://disciplespeace.org/give) to learn more about supporting DPF financially, to give securely online to our Annual Fund, or to support the Kirby Page Fund Endowment which creates a permanent stream of income designated entirely for the Peace Intern Program.

## 4. Follow Along

One thing we know for certain is that the Peace Intern Blog will be a central connecting point for the summer. Go ahead and bookmark [disciplespeace.org/follow-the-interns](https://disciplespeace.org/follow-the-interns). It will be a central clearing house for learning what the 2020 Peace Interns will be up to, hearing about their direct experiences of living out the Gospel imperative for peace and justice, and keeping up with them this summer.

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