

# Disciples Peace Fellowship

## NEWSNOTES

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[www.dpfweb.org](http://www.dpfweb.org)

Fall 2007 notes



### “YOU CAN NO MORE WIN A WAR THAN YOU CAN WIN AN EARTHQUAKE” — Jeanette Rankin

#### QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSIONS ON WAR AND PEACE IN CHURCHES

As congregations grapple with issues related to war and peace, the following questions might be of some help in the quest for a faithful position. Rather than encouraging Christians to engage in playing at being military policy-makers, the questions keep faith at the forefront and the reality of the church central.

- (1) What role should the example and teachings of Jesus and the message of the New Testament play in shaping our perspective on war and peace?
- (2) What relevance does Jesus' command to "love your enemies" (Matt. 5:44, Luke 6:27, 35) have for Christians in a time of war?
- (3) Does the biblical call to practice forgiveness have any political relevance?
- (4) How are we to be "in the world but not of the world" in a time of war?
- (5) Jesus said very little to encourage a preoccupation with security and even seems to disparage such a concern at times (Matt. 16:25, Mark 8:35, Luke 9:24-25, 17:33). Is the national emphasis upon military security something that should be shared by Christians?
- (6) Do the numerous biblical warnings about the central sin of pride have any relevance to national pride, particularly during times of war?
- (7) As members of the body of Christ, do we owe a loyalty to the global church that supercede any loyalty we owe to the U.S. even in times of war?
- (8) If our loyalty to the global church has precedence over national loyalty, in what practical ways should this be manifested?
- (9) As we assess American military, should we be more attentive to and trusting in the claims of U.S. political leaders than we are to the insights and experiences of church leaders in those areas most effected by American force?
- (10) How can the church more effectively be a witness of peace throughout the world?

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#### To Do List:

- **Remember to renew your DPF membership!!**
- Pray for Peace and the Reign of Justice
- Pick a major peace and justice activity for 2007—08 and sacrificially support it!
- **Consider a special gift to support DPF's Peace Intern program!!**

## NEW DPF LEADERSHIP!

### New Leadership for your Peace Fellowship

It's not that the "old" leadership is "old," but transitions do come with time — and with thanksgiving for leadership skills and energies generously shared with our largely volunteer ministry of presence and witness for peace and justice within our faith family, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Leaving the Executive Committee following this General Assembly are Linda McKiernan-Allen, who's served as Co-Moderator for some years (who's counted?), Pablo Stone and Tom Quigley. Jon Lacey will continue to serve the Executive Committee and DPF as editor of NewsNotes, but will "retire" with Linda as a Co-Moderator. Stepping up to lead DPF are Rob Crawford and Tim Longman. (More about them on the other side.)

New Executive Committee members are Jim Higginbotham, Sandy Messick and Sharon Warner. They join the continuing members: Job Cobos, David Downing, Jon Lacey, Tim Longman, Rob Crawford, Audrey Spindle, Cathy Hubbard and Craig Watts. (Interesting to note, this grouping includes a Regional Associate Minister for Hispanic Ministries, and two Regional Ministers, one of them making DPF "International". Cathy Hubbard is Regional Minister for Canada and Area Minister for the Province of Ontario.)

Thank you, Linda, Pablo and Tom. We know that service to the cause of peace and justice in God's world remains one of your core val-

ues; we also know that leaving the Executive Committee at this time is just a "phase" that you are going through! Just take a look at David Downing who's back with us (he has served many capacities, including chair of DPF "a while back"!!)

Let's not forget our other important leaders: Kathy Coggins Gideon, our recently called DPF Program Coordinator, our departing DPF Intern Coordinator Sarah Rie-ester, and our 2007 Intern retinue: Lee Grisham from Cleveland, TN, Elyse Sherman, a UCC from Murrietta, CA, Katherine Raley, Columbia, SC, and Liz Moore from Lakewood, OH.

**And don't forget  
the important role  
you too play in the  
life of the Disci-  
ples Peace Fellow-  
ship in our church  
and world. . .**

#### Meet Tim Long- man

Timothy Longman teaches courses on politics in Africa and the African diaspora, as well as courses on multicultural politics and religion and politics. His research focuses on ethnic conflict and religion and politics in Rwanda, Burundi, and Congo.

Dr. Longman has published

numerous articles and chapters on the conflicts in Central Africa, and his book, *Commanded by the Devil: Christianity and Genocide in Rwanda*, was recently accepted for publication by Cambridge University Press.

In addition to his teaching and research, Dr. Longman has worked as a consultant for [Human Rights Watch](#), researching and writing reports on human rights violations in Congo and Burundi.

Tim served twice as a Disciples Peace Intern and is a member of the United Church of Christ.

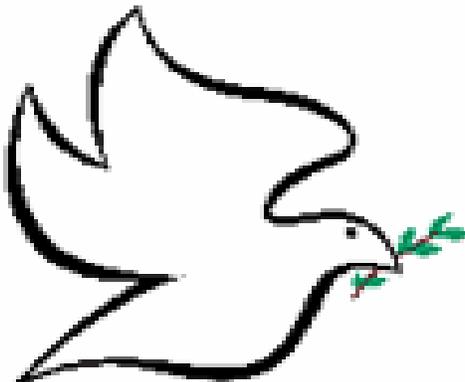


#### Meet Rob Crawford

Rev. Robert Crawford is an ordained minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Robert received a B.A. from Phillips University in Enid, OK and an M.Div. from Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa. Rev. Crawford was ordained December 31, 2000. Rev.

Crawford currently serves as minister of First Christian Church, Nowata, Oklahoma. His congregation supports and shares Rob's passion for peace and social justice.

A first generation disciple, Rob's involvement with DPF grew deeply as he served as a DPF intern in the summer of 1998. Rev. Crawford has served on the Disciples Peace Fellowship executive committee since 1999. Grounded in the spiritual disciplines of prayer and Sabbath keeping, Rev. Crawford continues to preach, act and pray for peace and justice on a daily basis. This past March, on the 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the war in Iraq, Rev. Crawford was arrested for joining with 221 others in an act of civil disobedience on the sidewalk in front of the White House praying for peace.



*Join our international community of peacemakers. We need each other now, more than ever. Join/renew by mail, or on line.*

***"War is not now, nor was it ever, a process of justice. It never was a test of truth -a criterion of right. It is either a mere game of chance or a violent outrage of the strong upon the weak. Need we any other proof that a Christian people can in no way whatever countenance a war as a proper means of redressing wrongs, of deciding justice, or of settling controversies among nations?"***

***Alexander Campbell, Millennial Harbinger (1848)***

## A PRIMER FOR PEACE — OUR HERITAGE AS DISCIPLES:

**“Are we there yet?”** is a common refrain from children seated in the backseat of the family sedan or SUV. What does it take to say “we’ve arrived”? Are we really ever “there” when “there” is a Gospel-faithful community of believers lifting high a banner inscribed “PEACE CHURCH.”

Take a look—and a reminder—at the road General Assemblies, our church, and Disciples Peace Fellowship have traveled. Using as road markers and mileposts along our journey resolutions brought before the General Assembly, they certainly seem to map a direction. (Reminder: the numbering system has first a two-digit code for the year and then a resolution of business item assignment.)

#6920 - Imperative for World Order, Justice and Peace  
 #6940 - A Department of Peace  
 #6951 - Support for 80 US Congress Members who proposed a UN Peacekeeping Force  
 #7120 - The Church’s Witness for Peace  
 #7327 - Reconciling the Nation Through a Grant of Amnesty  
 #7334 - Concerning National Priorities  
 #7743 - UN Support  
 #7943 - Opposition to the Draft  
 #7944 - The Church’s Witness for Peace  
 #8128 - Establishing a Peace Sunday  
 #8143 - Establishing a National Peace Academy  
 #8148 - Peace Established as a Priority  
 #8324 - On Pacifism As A Way of Life  
 #8331 - Statements on Nuclear War, Disarmament and Peace  
 #8514 - Study: A New World Order  
 #8528 - The International Year of Peace  
 #8529 - 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and Ending All Nuclear Explosions  
 #8530 - The Pledge of Resistance to Prevent the Invasion of Central America  
 #8538 - The Militarization of Africa  
 #8546 - Priorities for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)—Peace Included as one of the major priorities)

#8560 - Peace and Survival – condemns nuclear arms race

#8715 - Resolution Concerning Shalom Congregations

#8734 - Opposition to the Strategic Defense Initiative

#8735 - Study Document on Peace with Justice

#8740 - The Peace Tax Fund

#8741 - Resolution Concerning the Creation of A Process by Which the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Could Affirm Itself to be a Just Peace Church.

This resolution called for a process by which the Disciples of Christ could study the United Church of Christ Pronouncement on a Just Peace Church and arrive at a decision as to whether a comparable statement should be presented at the 1989 General Assembly.

#8920 - Justice and Peace Awards

#8934 - Middle East Peace

#8935 - South Africa

#9330 - Support of Peace Process in the Philippines

#9328 - Post Cold-War World

#0520 - Peace in the Sudan

#0533 - Suicide Bombing Cessation

#0522 - Tear down the Wall, calling upon Israel to remove the barrier blocking Palestinians.

#0533 - Emergency Resolution Concerning Suicide Bombing and Our Commitment to Peacemaking

#0728 - **“THE CHURCH'S RESPONSE TO THE WAR IN IRAQ”.**

**Reflecting on this roadway, present DPF Executive Committee member David Downing (himself chairperson of DPF during several of the uphill struggles for passage of resolutions) has commented: “That sounds almost like a different denomination than we have today! Where are such resolutions today?”**

The destination hasn’t been reached. Have we paused long enough at some “rest stop” along the road? Time to be traveling along the road to peace once again? Get your engine running and participate in the CONTINUING dialogue and discussion around General Assembly resolution #0728. Use some of the questions suggested by Craig Watts — AND LET us know what you are doing, what your con-

gregation, DPF Chapter or Region are doing in response to our discussion and action at the Assembly. Even the Christian Century noted our action! Make our heritage more than a paper history!



## PEACE IS OUR RIGHTFUL THEME

Few topics are more important than peace. Hostile divisions seem to dominate the planet far too often. The destruction caused by ethnic strife, racial animosity, gross economic inequality and international conflict mar the lives of countless millions. ***Even as so many suffer and grieve, many others remain convinced that the answer to the misery and turmoil is found in yet more, better targeted violence. That answer, I am convinced, is contrary to the way of Jesus Christ.***

***Peace is the will of God for all creation.*** The story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden expresses God's original intention for the world. Here we find a harmonious, nonviolent existence where there is room for partnership, love and creativity but not for deadly conflict. This peace, we are led to believe, is what God had in mind for all that God made and in particular for those creatures made in God's own image. According to the book of Genesis, fulfillment and wholeness rooted in right relations was God's original design for humankind.

The disruption of peace was the result of the fragmentation of right relations, first of all with God, but, then, with other humans and with creation itself. The enigmatic story of the disobedience

*(Continued on page 5)*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that although the General Assembly disagrees with the war in Iraq, we lift up the men and women of the armed forces who are stationed there for their courage and sacrifice and hold them and their families in our prayers....Resolution 0728.

(Continued from page 4)

ence to God in the Garden quickly gives way to the story of the next generation, the murder of Abel by his brother Cain. This act of violence is the first deed that is expressly called "sin" in the opening book of the Bible. As the biblical story proceeds, violence continues to be prominent and peace proves to be illusive.

**I happen to believe, as did some of the most significant Disciples leaders in the past, that the church is called to be God's peace society.** As a community of faith we are to practice and promote the peace found in Jesus Christ and in so doing, work for the healing of our fragmented and warring world. Jesus taught standards for a community, a community that is to exist as "salt" and "light", embodying an alternative to the world that is characterized by the quest for dominance (Matt. 5:13-16). The beatitudes also point to qualities of character not typical of those who wield deadly force: humility, tender-heartedness, meekness, mercifulness and peacemaking (Matt. 5:3-11; Lk. 6:20-22). Jesus blesses those who are persecuted but speaks of no similar blessing for those

who would defend the persecuted by violent means. **We have been called to help mend a broken world, not by working in ways at odds with the way of Jesus but by following him in determined, nonviolent love.**

Craig Watts



**Washington, D.C. and your community**

**Massive Mobilization: APRIL 2008**

If the United States continues to occupy Iraq, Christian Peace Witness for Iraq (CPWI) will create another opportunity for Christians to 'speak their peace' through worship and witness.

We will invite you, your family, your congregation and your neighbors to come again to the nation's capitol on or near the date of April 9, 2008, the fifth anniversary of the beginning of the U.S. occupation.

On the same date, we also invite you to create worship services in your community. Over 200 local vigils were held March 16, 2007, all empowering participants to advocate for peace in their communities, countries and the world.

Together we will fill houses of worship, remembering and learning anew the ways of the Prince of Peace. Then we will carry our public witness to the halls of government power, calling our leaders to embody values fundamental to the Christian tradition—and shared in other traditions—that truly make for communities of prosperity, security, and justice.

**Gift Opportunity About To Expire**

While there has been some Congressional discussion about extending the charitable giving provision of the 2006 Pension Protection Act, at this point that provision is scheduled to expire December 31, 2007. The provision allows persons who are age 70 ½ or older to exclude up to \$100,000 from their 2007 gross income for cash gifts made directly to a qualified charity, such as the Disciples Peace Fellowship. The charitable giving provision applies only to traditional and Roth IRA's — it can provide a wonderful opportunity for retired persons to make significant gifts without incurring additional taxation. Contact the Christian Church Foundation — <http://www.disciples.org/ccf/>



**Print Prayers**

Christian Peace Witness for Iraq partners have put together a set of prayers for vigil organizers. Now it is easy to print the prayers at home and distribute copies.

<http://christianpeacewitness.org/downloads/cpwiprayers.pdf>



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For DPF business: Email Rob Crawford: robert.crawford72@sbcglobal.net or Tim Longman: timothylongman@yahoo.com



**Annual Membership/Renewal /Contribution Form**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Local congregation \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Dues: \$35.00 Individual \_\_ \$50.00 Household/Congregation \_\_ \$12.00 Students/Limited Income \_\_

I am instead/also including a contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the work of Disciples Peace Fellowship

**Send dues, contributions and special gifts to:**



**Disciples Peace Fellowship; P.O Box 1986; Indianapolis, IN 46206-1986**

**A special plea:**

Each and every gift is important. At this time of year when we've fielded our interns and most are back in college or seminary, it is assessment time. Our largest budget item is the support, transport and stipend for these dedicated young adults—who make such an important impact for peace in our church's regional camp and conference programs. Are you aware that with rare exception, ALL of the interns expenses are borne by DPF? As we decide on how many interns we can afford for 2008, it's an important and startling fact that our special summer alert netted enough to pay for one intern—while we fielded 4! No gift too small or too late!