



DISCIPLES PEACE FELLOWSHIP ~ FALL 2015

NEWSNOTES

Thank You For Your Service!

It is with deep gratitude and respect that we bid farewell to three DPFers who completed terms of service on the Executive Committee, as of the 2015 General Assembly. **Jim Higginbotham** has served for eight years, most recently as co-moderator. His insights, attention to nuance and detail, and humble attitude of service have been great gifts for our organization. **Craig Watts** completed ten years of service on the Executive Committee, and has also served as co-moderator. Many of you are familiar with Craig's passionate and prolific writings for the cause of peace. **Jeff Hon** is completing a four-year term; we give thanks for his generous service, especially in bringing our booth to life at General Assemblies and even Quadrennial Assembly! We give thanks for Jim, Craig, and Jeff, and for the time and energy each of them has shared with our church through their service to Disciples Peace Fellowship.

We also, as of the Columbus gathering, said good-bye to our volunteer staffer, **Jon Lacey**. Jon has tirelessly served in this role since 2011, giving generously of his time and wisdom to keep the Executive Committee and DPF as a whole on track. Though we will sorely miss him, we know he has more than earned this "retirement" and that **Jon & Melba** will remain committed supporters of the ministry of Disciples Peace Fellowship! Thank you, Jon!

Intern Blogs

• Every summer, three young
• people start out excited and
• knowledgeable about peace
• and justice, and then they grow
• and grow. Read all about the
• journeys our 2015 Peace
• Interns made at [dpfweb.org/
category/followtheinterns](http://dpfweb.org/category/followtheinterns).

This issue of NewsNotes created by Jon Lacey & Rebecca Littlejohn.

2015-2017 Executive Committee

We ask your prayers for the work of the 2015-2017 Executive Committee, which will be having our annual meeting at CTS in Indianapolis, Oct. 14-16. The ExComm includes: Mary Jacobs (2019-OR) co-moderator, Rebecca Littlejohn (2019-CA) co-moderator, Katie Russell (2017-IA) secretary, John Brock (2017-MA) treasurer, Sarahann Callaway (2017-IL), Manuel Collazo (2019-FL), Catherine Nichols (2019-Global Ministries), Laura Ann Phillips (2017- KS), Andrew Shepherd (2019-OR), Chrissy Stonebraker-Martinez (2019-OH), and Paul Veliyathil (2017-FL).

REPORT FROM GENERAL ASSEMBLY

DPF in the Exhibit Hall

Assembly-goers had a chance to learn about DPF at our booth in the Exhibit Hall during General Assembly. Visitors were invited to add to a communal prayer for peace which was later posted on #peaceprayers (see page 4). They were also given the chance to make a prayer bracelet with their own personal message of peace. At Justice Corner, many different speakers shared about their work for peace and justice. Many GA attendees purchased DPF shirts, especially our sweatshirts, since the convention center was quite chilly!



Worship at Breakfast?

We experimented with our biennial GA breakfast this year, and held it on Sunday morning, intertwining our business with a worship service. We were privileged to welcome former DPF Intern Amy Gopp as our preacher, and she brought the word with her usual passionate and brilliant grasp of the gospel. Given the positive response to this change, look for us to gather on Sunday morning again next time!

Justice for Farmworkers!

(At right) DPFers Carolyn Higginbotham, Rita Nakashima Brock and Linda McCrae join in the GA protest for farmworkers' rights at Wendy's.

Sense of the Assembly Resolutions

GUN CONTROL

DPF was one of two groups that submitted resolutions on gun violence prevention to the 2015 General Assembly. Because we could not come to consensus with the other submitting body, a substitute resolution was forwarded from the General Board, which we endorsed. However, the resolution was then sent to Reference & Counsel, to have additional calls for specific gun control measures added. The amended resolution passed as one of the very last items of business.

EMERGENCY RESOLUTION ON IRAN

We were pleased to partner with DPF member Rita Nakashima-Brock to bring an emergency resolution before the Assembly to affirm the historic agreement with Iran, aimed at eliminating Iran's potential development of nuclear weapons. Thanks also to Peter Makari of Global Ministries who consulted with us at the Reference & Counsel meeting that then forwarded the resolution to the Assembly.

RESOLUTIONS TASK FORCE FORMED

DPF will be part of the new task force created by Assembly action to explore new ways to handle sense-of-the-assembly resolutions in the future. You can find the text of all GA 2015 resolutions and their fate at <http://ga.disciples.org/business/#resolutions-tab>.



Bratkovich Award Given

Disciples Peace Fellowship created and awards the Todd Bratkovich Award to a member(s) of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) whose efforts, like those of Todd, have been *characterized by early actions for peace & justice*. Todd was a compassionate young man; he was a dreamer but didn't wait until he was "grown up" to start living out his dreams. Todd died in an unfortunate skiing accident. Todd's family and DPF remember and honor his faithful witness at each General Assembly. The Award is presented at the DPF Breakfast, and the recognition is accompanied by a gift of \$500 to be used as the recipient chooses.

The 2015 Todd Bratkovich Awardee is Chrissy Stonebraker-Martinez of Cleveland, Ohio. Chrissy is the Co-Executive Director of the Inter-Religious Task Force on Central America in Cleveland. She is also a former DPF Intern and a new member of the DPF Executive Committee. She was presented with the award by her former pastor, Rev. Allen V. Harris, Regional Minister for the Christian Church in the Capitol Area.

Wittkamper Award

Will Wittkamper was a Disciples pastor who was active in the struggle for racial equality in the mid-twentieth century in the U.S. Rev. Wittkamper was a strong supporter of Clarence Jordan at the interracial community Koinonia Farms in Americus, Georgia.

At every General Assembly since 1981, DPF has presented the Wittkamper Award, to honor lifetime peacemaking achievement by those who have dedicated themselves to advancing causes of peace and justice. **The 2015 recipient of the Wittkamper Award is Rev. Ken Kennon** of Tucson, Arizona. Ken has been active in DPF for many years, as well as a devoted activist within the sanctuary and the anti-SOA movements and beyond.

Ken was not able to attend the Assembly in Columbus, but a video presentation was made about his achievements. He was surprised with the award the morning of the DPF breakfast at his home congregation, and DPF Co-Moderator Rebecca Littlejohn presented the award to him in person at a Tucson-area event in early October.

All of the Wittkamper honorees' name are inscribed on a permanent trophy maintained by DPF at the Disciples Center in Indianapolis. Ken & Chrissy join impressive lists of previous winners, which you can see at <http://www.dpfweb.org/peace-awards/>. Congratulations to both of them!

Introducing...

Kirby Page!

If you were at the General Assembly in Columbus, you may have seen someone wearing a ribbon that said "I am Kirby Page," even though their name tag clearly said their name was something else. You might have seen someone else with a ribbon saying "I ♥ Kirby Page." "Who is Kirby Page?" you may have asked yourself. Wonder no longer!

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. Our initial goal is to raise \$100,000. Our long-term goal is to reach \$600,000, creating enough interest income to fund three interns each year. After this summer's grand launch, we are almost to our first goal with nearly \$50,000 received in gifts and pledges.

This Permanent Fund is named for Kirby Page (1890-1957), a Disciples pastor, peace activist and proponent of the Social Gospel. Page was instrumental in founding what eventually became the Fellowship of Reconciliation. This Fund bears his name in hopes that through DPF's internship programs, his passion for peace will be cultivated in our church's young people.

Who is Kirby Page? All of our former & current & future interns! Who loves Kirby Page? All of those who donate to this Permanent Fund, which we hope will include you! Gifts should be sent to the Christian Church Foundation.

A WORD FROM A FRIEND

Dear Friends of DPF,

The glow lingers from our wonderful breakfast at the General Assembly, warming our hearts and lighting our way as we move into our fall activities. Many thanks to the Rev. Amy Gopp, for her powerful and inspiring words.

We look forward to further inspiration from this passionate proponent of Christ's peace in a future piece that Amy will share with us.



It has already been a good year. Our three summer peace interns, Briana Black, Will O'Brien and Celia Thomason, were present in 18 Regions, at 23 events this past summer, as they raised up a new generation of peacemakers. We have received gifts and pledges that will lift our Kirby Page Peace Intern Permanent Fund to nearly \$50,000. And we have received \$23,783 in general fund gifts in 2015 so far, thus reaching 46% of our annual budget.

As you engage in peace-seeking studies and activities this fall, please remember to support Disciples Peace Fellowship. Renewing your annual membership at \$35 will help a lot. A generous donation of \$100 will bring us even closer to our 2015 goal of \$51,700.

You can return your gift in the envelope enclosed with this NewsNotes or support DPF with an online contribution at dpfweb.org.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Disciples Peace Fellowship. Together we are keeping alive the passion for peace and justice.

In the peace of Christ,

Bruce Ervin

DPF Fundraising Committee

Have you signed up to receive #peaceprayers in your email yet? Each week, DPF puts out a prayer connecting our passion for peace & justice with world events. Read them & sign up at hashtagpeaceprayers.tumblr.com. If you'd like to sign up to write a prayer for #peaceprayers, email us at disciplespeace@gmail.com.

Wisdom for Peacemaking

A word of wisdom from Wittkamper awardee Ken Kennon, for peacemakers of all ages: **“Wisdom that all who would be peacemakers must put into practice. If you want peace, the first thing you must do is persist. If you want peace with justice, the second thing you must do is persist. The third thing you must do, if you truly want peace is persist.”**

(From “Prisoner of Conscience: A Memoir” by Ken Kennon)