



# ...BRIEFLY

## Presbyterian Peace Fellowship

Vol. 72 General Assembly Issue 2016

[presbypeacefellowship.org](http://presbypeacefellowship.org) [ga@presbypeacefellowship.org](mailto:ga@presbypeacefellowship.org)

Trusting the Nonviolence of Jesus Christ Today

**Speaker:**  
**Osagyefo**  
**Uhuru**  
**Sekou**



General Assembly Attendees, Please Join Us for

## THE PEACE BREAKFAST

at the 222<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Portland, OR

**Wed. June 22, 2016**

6:45 am – 8:15 am Oregon Convention Center

777 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Worth Rising Early! See Commissioner Rebate Info Below

Theologian, Author, Nonviolence Trainer, Bayard Rustin Fellow of the Fellowship of Reconciliation and a Lead Organizer with Black Lives Matter for the Youth of Ferguson, MO

### 2015 & 2016 Peaceseeker Awards

**Presented to:**



**Evelyn Chumbow & Jill Bolander-Cohen**

for Leadership in the Work Against Human Trafficking

**Bill Coop**

for a Lifetime of Peacemaking  
in Global Mission & Local Ministry

Tickets \$22 by June 15 at [presbypeacefellowship.org/peacebreakfast](http://presbypeacefellowship.org/peacebreakfast) OR \$24 through GA registration process.  
Full Plated Breakfast. Print out and bring your ticket. For last minute ticket questions, check PPF booth 109-111.  
\$5 Rebate to Commissioners and Advisory Delegates wearing GA name tag at the Breakfast  
Please note: there is no guarantee that tickets will be available after GA registration closes.  
Be sure to buy tickets by June 15. This event sells out! E-mail inquiries to [GA@presbypeacefellowship.org](mailto:GA@presbypeacefellowship.org)

## Welcome to General Assembly !

...Greetings from PPF Co-Moderators,  
Rev. Elizabeth Shannon, Chaplain, Eckerd College  
Elder Rick Ufford-Chase, Moderator of the 216<sup>th</sup> General  
Assembly PC(USA)

Greetings to those of you now preparing for the 222<sup>nd</sup>  
General Assembly this June in Portland –and to our PPF  
national community of over 3,200 Presbyterian families.

Each GA offers a chance to strengthen the witness of the  
PC (USA) on the issues of war, peace and violence in the  
world —and to transform how we see the church of Jesus  
when we all go home after the last gavel and hymn.

If you're coming to GA, please join us on June 22 for the  
Peace Breakfast, worth getting up early. If you can attend  
only one special breakfast at GA, make this the one! It is  
a lifetime experience, often a life-changing experience.

This newsletter covers GA actions on the witness of faith  
to the issues of war, violence and nonviolence, our PPF  
area of expertise. The world is at a violent and fearful  
moment, and faces a future of unprecedented violence as  
climate change impacts the struggle for food, water, air,  
land and survival. Ask with us: What would Jesus have  
us do now?

Your GA overflows with important issues, from church  
procedures and plans to overcoming racism to how the  
church relates to its LGBT members. For all these issues  
and more, we thank you for serving at GA and we pray  
God's blessing of wisdom for you and your colleagues.

For those serving on GA committees handling peace, war  
and violence issues, please watch the mail for Peace  
Fellowship Briefing Papers prepared by our volunteers.  
For everyone, an overview of issues is offered here on  
pages 4-7. For questions or other needs, please use our  
GA contact address [ga@presbypeacefellowship.org](mailto:ga@presbypeacefellowship.org)  
Portland, here come the Presbyterians!

### **BRIEFLY** is the newsletter of the **Presbyterian Peace Fellowship**

17 Cricketown Road Stony Point, NY 10980  
[presbypeacefellowship.org](http://presbypeacefellowship.org) 845-786-6743 [ppfwitness@gmail.com](mailto:ppfwitness@gmail.com)

Elizabeth Shannon & Rick Ufford-Chase, Co-Moderators  
Judy Lee, Secretary Len Bjorkman, Moderator Emeritus Dylan Rooke, Treasurer  
Ben Snipes, Asst. Treasurer Kathy Dean, Bookkeeper  
Linda Eastwood, Colombia Accompaniment Coordinator  
Sarah Prager, Web Content Manager [sarah@presbypeacefellowship.org](mailto:sarah@presbypeacefellowship.org)

Emily Brewer, Co-Director  
[emily@presbypeacefellowship.org](mailto:emily@presbypeacefellowship.org)  
Fritz Gutwein, Co-Director 202-681-3437  
[fritzg@presbypeacefellowship.org](mailto:fritzg@presbypeacefellowship.org)

General Assembly Interns:  
Annica Gage, Emma Warman, Elizabeth Welliver

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Send donations, address change/ subscription needs to our Stony Point  
office. Contact the editors at: Jan Orr-Harter PO Box 930, Aledo, TX 76008  
[JanOH4@aol.com](mailto:JanOH4@aol.com) 817-291-3952 & Marilyn White 2705 Edenwood Dr.  
Austin, TX 78745 [marwhite@igc.org](mailto:marwhite@igc.org) 512-450-2766

## A PEACEMAKER'S CALENDAR

**May 17-31**– Peace Fellowship Young Adult Delegation to  
Iraqi Kurdistan. Follow the trip at #PPFIK and at  
[presbypeacefellowship.org/PPFIK](http://presbypeacefellowship.org/PPFIK) To invite trip  
participants to speak to local church, campus and  
presbytery groups, contact PPF Co-Director Emily  
Brewer. [emily@presbypeacefellowship.org](mailto:emily@presbypeacefellowship.org)

**June 15** Deadline to Purchase Discount Tickets for the  
GA Peace Breakfast to be held on Wed. June 22. See p. 1

**June 17-25** 222<sup>nd</sup> PC(USA) General Assembly  
Portland, OR. See PPF Free Booth Events, p. 8.

**June 18** NEW AT GA! - Progressive Partners Issues  
Briefing for Commissioners, Advisory Delegates and GA  
Visitors, sponsored by PPF and six other groups. 7am, at  
the First Congregational UCC, 1126 SW Park Ave, near  
the Tri-Met rail line. Free light breakfast. Reservations  
requested [GA@presbypeacefellowship.org](mailto:GA@presbypeacefellowship.org)

### **Wed. June 22** The Peace Breakfast !

**Speaker: Rev. Osagyefo Uhuru Sekou**  
St. Louis, MO

6:45am – 8:15 am at the Oregon Convention Center.  
Commissioners, attendees and those who live near  
Portland, please join us June 22 for this top-notch event.  
Peacemaker Awards presented to Bill Coop for  
Global/Local Peacemaking and to Evelyn Chumbow and  
Jill Bolander-Cohen for work to end human trafficking.

Staying Home? Follow #PPFGA @presbypeace  
or [www.presbypeacefellowship.org/GA16](http://www.presbypeacefellowship.org/GA16)

**Aug. 6 & 9** Hiroshima and Nagasaki Days

**Sept. 3-Oct.2** Peace & Global Witness Offering. See  
[presbyterianmission.org/peace-global](http://presbyterianmission.org/peace-global)

**Sept. 23-Oct. 17** International Peacemakers Tour. For a  
visit to your area, see [pcusa.org/peacemaking](http://pcusa.org/peacemaking)

**Sept. 29-Oct. 1** Presbyterian Peace Fellowship Activist  
Council Gathering, Stony Point, NY. Find the “ABCs” to  
join the Activist Council at [presbypeacefellowship.org](http://presbypeacefellowship.org)

**Oct. 7-10** SOA Watch Mobilization in Nogales, AZ. The  
annual vigil for victims of US military violence in Latin  
America moves to the border! See [soaw.org](http://soaw.org) for info.  
While there, please join us for the award dinner below.

**Oct. TBA** Tucson, AZ – PPF presents the annual Anne  
Barstow & Tom Driver Award for “Excellence in  
Nonviolent Direct Action in Retirement” to Gene Lefebre.  
Dinner with keynote speech by Rick Ufford-Chase.  
Local event committee chaired by John Fife.

**Oct. 13-17** Colombia Accompaniment Training, Stony  
Point, NY. Considering accompaniment? Contact Linda  
Eastwood. [linda@presbypeacefellowship.org](mailto:linda@presbypeacefellowship.org)

**PPF Thanks MaryAnn Harwell**, Retiring  
Office Administrator, Untiring Peace Advocate/Educator

## Who is the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship?

The Presbyterian Peace Fellowship was founded 72 years ago, in 1944, as a national community of Presbyterians who hear Jesus calling us to engage the gospel of nonviolence with the world that we live in.

We are peacemakers. We are PC(USA) church members and volunteers. We have a small staff. We do not have glitzy lobbying campaigns. We raise and give our own funds, paying our own way to GA. We do not work for or represent any government or outside lobbying group. We



are, like you, seeking to be faithful to Christ on some of the most difficult issues faced by the world today.

Please visit our booth at GA and learn why PPF promotes pro-active nonviolence as the best approach to inevitable

human conflict. And we want to hear from you! Let's talk, pray, study and act together, as we are given faith to do.

Like those who founded PPF, we believe that the "just war" theory does not stem from Jesus. We also believe that wars in the modern age do not meet the criteria of "just war" any longer. Our time in history needs pro-active nonviolence in all areas of conflict: from preventing gun violence to preventing nuclear war, from facing terrorism to accompanying church leaders in Colombia to overcoming systemic racism in our country and in ourselves.



Sometimes pro-active nonviolence means protesting a popular war. Sometimes it means going to other countries to learn first-hand. Sometimes it means going to prison for what we believe. Sometimes it just means not buying a product or a stock that violates others.

That's what we've supported for 72 years. As you study the issues before the GA, please feel free to call on PPF for any help that we can give. **God bless you at GA. May your service be a blessing to the world!**

## Thank you, Gradye Parsons

PPF thanks outgoing Stated Clerk Gradye Parsons for his courage and wisdom in communicating the concern of the church on issues of war, violence and human rights during his service. Blessings and peace to you always.

## How to Connect with PPF for GA

**Booth 109-111** Visit our booth in the Exhibit Hall. See p. 8 for GA Booth Conversations in the Exhibit Hall

**Follow: #PPFGA @presbypeace**

Contact: [ga@presbypeacefellowship.org](mailto:ga@presbypeacefellowship.org)

Sign Up for Email Advocacy & Direct Action Alerts: [presbypeacefellowship.org/GAcommunication](http://presbypeacefellowship.org/GAcommunication)  
We will email you on PPF direct action events at GA.

Find complete GA Committee Briefing Papers: [presbypeacefellowship.org/GA16](http://presbypeacefellowship.org/GA16)

**Work with PPF:** If you are a peace Overture Advocate from your presbytery or you have expertise, interest or questions...or if you can communicate peace overture concerns to your presbytery or synod commissioners, please contact Marilyn White now. 512-450-2766 [marwhite@igc.com](mailto:marwhite@igc.com) or [ga@presbypeacefellowship.org](mailto:ga@presbypeacefellowship.org)  
Or come see us in Booth #109-111 at GA. **Thanks!**

## GA June 22 Peace Breakfast Speaker Osagyefo Uhuru Sekou

Rev. Sekou is a leading voice of our era, calling us to a deeper focus on the nonviolent way of Christ in concrete ways. He reminds us of the moral call as people of faith to re-ground ourselves in the reality of today's injustices and the belief that oppression in the form of racism, police brutality, homophobia, war, or any other manifestation of injustice is not the will of God.

Academically trained at the New School, Union Theological Seminary in NY and Harvard University, Sekou is an authority on the use of active nonviolence to transform



injustice. In addition to lecturing at Princeton, the University of Virginia, the University of Paris and more, he has trained thousands around the world in the use of nonviolent resistance and civil disobedience.

Raised in St. Louis, Rev. Sekou was a Visiting Scholar at Stanford University's Martin Luther King Education & Research Institute at the time of the police killing of Michael Brown. He traveled then to Ferguson, MO and remained there to organize in St. Louis alongside local and national groups on behalf of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, the nation's oldest peace group. FOR has named Osagyefo Uhuru Sekou its Bayard Rustin Fellow.

Even if you do not serve as a commissioner on the peace-related GA committees, we hope this review is helpful to you for plenary actions. These are not simple issues. Thank you for taking time to study them. Stop by PPF Booth 109-111 for an in-depth "Blue Paper" on the peace issues before committees or find them at [presbypeacefellowship.org/GA16](http://presbypeacefellowship.org/GA16)

### The Way Forward – Committee 4

#### The Presbytery of the Foothills Overtures

**PPF opposes all of the Foothills Overtures given to this committee (04-01, 04-02, 04-03, 04-04, 04-05, 04-06, 04-09) & to Committee 11, Social Justice (11-01, 11-02)**

We affirm that the purpose of "The Way Forward" Committee is to enhance rather than hinder our effectiveness and flexibility in responding to local, national and global situations needing the presence, support and witness of the church. Taken together, the Foothills Overtures would tie the GA in knots, reducing the denomination to only administrative matters. As Presbyterians, our historic heritage has been engagement with the world. This is central to who we are. A better way to reform our procedures is offered by the Presbytery of the Cascades (11-03). See Committee 11 below.

### Church Polity & Ordered Ministry – Committee 6

**PPF supports 06-03 which would add "Caring for God's Creation" to the Book of Order.**

This engages every presbytery in reflecting on the gift of creation, the threats to creation and the call to creation care.

### Middle East Issues - Committee 8

*Middle East issues are always among the most difficult issues before GA. Please visit [presbypeacefellowship.org](http://presbypeacefellowship.org) for comprehensive Israel-Palestine resources, first-hand reports, press releases and the principles underlying our work.*

**PPF opposes 08-05 from Flint River Presbytery: On Removing the Divestment Mandate by the 221<sup>st</sup> General Assembly Regarding Caterpillar, Inc., Motorola Solutions, and Hewlett-Packard**

PPF affirms the historic divestment action of the 2014 GA. Here's why: The process of considering Occupation divestment over a ten year period was open, methodical, conscientious and fair. Caterpillar, Hewlett-Packard and Motorola Solutions were afforded every opportunity for real dialogue. We are all stewards of the money of the church. As Presbyterians, we draw a line on how we will invest what is really God's money. Profiting from the illegal military occupation of an impoverished people crosses the line.



Israeli forces using a Caterpillar bulldozer to demolish a Palestinian home Photo: Sliman Khader/APA

Since 2014, the divestment/boycott movement has grown. Others taking an Occupation divestment stand now include the United Methodist Board of Pensions, the United Church of Christ, the Alliance of Baptists, the Unitarian Universalist Association, the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (a significant Catholic group), the United Electrical Workers Union, the University of California Davis and others.

International divestment actions or business withdrawals include Barclays Bank, the Quebec Union, the Brazilian State of Bahia, the Irish firm CRH, the French telecom giant Orange and other French companies Veolia, Safege and Puma that are pulling out of light rail and cable car projects in the illegally occupied settlements. Other corporations changing course, due in part to the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement, include Soda Stream, which moved its production activities out of the settlements and G4S

which ended its private prison contracts with the Israeli military after 20 South African businesses, the Gates Foundation, the Methodist Church and others withdrew from their contracts or investments with G4S. Each of these actions is controversial, courageous and part of an international nonviolent effort to help end the Occupation.

PPF sees no change in the situation in Israel-Palestine to warrant reversing divestment at this point. The United Nations reports that Israeli demolition of Palestinian buildings in 2016 is already four times greater than in 2015, with a massive push to increase the number of Israeli settlers moving onto the confiscated land. There are now over 650,000 Israelis living illegally on Palestinian land, with Palestinians forced into more and more desperate conditions, refugees in their own territory. Caterpillar, Hewlett-Packard and Motorola Solutions continue to profit from this misery.

In the face of controversy, PPF encourages the 222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly to "Have courage; hold fast to what is good."

**PPF supports 08-06 - Israel-Palestine: For Human Values in the Absence of a Just Peace,**  
from the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (ACSWP)

This report updates us on the situation on the ground in Israel-Palestine. We encourage GA to adopt it and Presbyterians to study it. The Occupation is in its 49<sup>th</sup> year with over 130 Israeli settlements on Palestinian land. These settlements and Israeli-only roadways have subsumed much of the land that was envisioned for a Palestinian state. The ACSWP team finds that it is not helpful for Presbyterians to debate one- or two-state solutions at this time. Stepping back from suggesting political solutions, they lift up values that we hold as Christians that should guide our witness now.

Many Presbyterians received a booklet, *Two States for Two Peoples*, from Presbyterians for Middle East Peace (PMEP), a well-funded advocacy group that opposes divestment. It calls for “foundation-building through grass-roots, expanded person-to-person interactions; economic cooperation between Palestinians and Israelis; and political developments and policies that advance peace.” Each of these is surely desirable. Yet the truth is that each of these approaches has been sincerely and repeatedly tried since the start of the military occupation of the West Bank almost 50 years ago. To say that doing them more and better in the future will be the key to reversing the spread of the Occupation seems to us to be seriously mistaken. We do not agree with many of the statements by Presbyterians for Middle East Peace.

Our own response to the Occupation is guided by the words of our Christian partners in Israel-Palestine. They shared a deep analysis of their situation in the epistle, *Kairos Palestine, 2009: A Word of Faith, Hope and Love from the Heart of Palestinian Suffering*. In that document, the major Palestinian Christian denominations and church groups joined their voices with those of others in Palestinian civil organizations to “call on individuals, companies and states to engage in divestment and in an economic and commercial boycott of everything produced by the occupation” (para 4.2.6).

We affirm the ways in which our denomination responded to that plea, following procedures of engagement and decision-making that have worked effectively over the years to challenge conflicts and inequities around the world. For Israel and Palestine, the 220<sup>th</sup> and 221<sup>st</sup> General Assemblies voted respectively to boycott products made in the Israeli settlements in the West Bank and to divest from key corporations that profit from the use of their products in the enforcement of the occupation. The PMEP booklet wrongly characterizes those actions as an effort to create a one-state solution. That is a misrepresentation of the PC (USA) position, which has always distinguished between the pre-1967 borders (recognized by the Palestinian National Council in 1988) and Palestinian territory captured in 1967, now commonly referred to as the “occupied territories,” the core of the land on which Palestinians hope to establish their own nation state. PC(USA) policies of boycott and divestment reflect deeply-held values, moral integrity and the solidarity of Jesus with those who suffer. The church does not want to profit from activities that enable an illegal occupation and human rights abuses.

We support 08-06, *Israel-Palestine: Human Values in the Absence of a Just Peace*. We urge the church to oppose violence on all sides and to stand firmly for universal values and human rights, even if any peace process appears dead. We support the original international vision of a fair arrangement for both peoples with a genuinely shared Jerusalem for all three Abrahamic faiths. That mutual respect is a basis for a just peace for Israel, Palestine and across the region.

**PPF supports 08-01 from the Synod of the Covenant: On Boycott of all HP Inc. and Hewlett Packard Enterprise Products** This overture calls for a boycott of HP consumer goods because of HP’s work in equipping the Israeli military, operating checkpoints and providing essential support for the invasion and blockade of Gaza.

**PPF supports 08-02 from the Synod of the Covenant: On Advocating for the Safety and Well-being of Children in Palestine and Israel** The ACSWP report 08-06 calls us to protect the children of Israel and Palestine.

**PPF supports 08-03 from the Presbytery of New York City: On Upholding Peoples and Partners in the Middle East and in the United States** This addresses peace building steps with Syria, Iraq and the entire region.

**PPF supports 08-04 from the Presbytery of the Redwoods: On calling for the RE/MAX Corporation to Cease Selling Property in West Bank Settlements** Calls for conversation with RE/MAX offices to ask them to respect property rights and to stop selling and renting properties that have been illegally seized from Palestinians.

**Immigration and Environmental Issues – Committee 9** PPF supports Overtures 09-05, Santa Fe Presbytery on “Laudato Si;” 09-06 from the Presbytery of New York City on Refugees; 09-10, “Collaborative Agenda on Environmental Stewardship” from BOP, OGA, FDN, PLLP, PMA, PPC

**PPF supports Overture 09-01, Presbytery of San Francisco with concurrences by other 26 presbyteries: On PC(USA) Divestment from Fossil Fuels**

PPF supports immediate divestment because of the impact of unabated climate change on war and human conflict:

According to the US Dept. of Defense *2014 Climate Change Roadmap*, climate change is a threat to national security and a “threat multiplier” of existing conditions such as poverty, disease, mass displacement/migration, political instability and the creation of vacuums for extremists in weak and in currently stable governments. As the world’s largest user of fossil

fuels, the US military is working to cut fossil fuel use. It envisions a future role of increased response to extreme weather at home and abroad, plus a complete revision of global facilities, weaponry and training plans, especially near sea level.

As peacemakers, we reflect soberly on this report. We warn of unprecedented human violence and war over extreme heat, water, food, land, air, wildfires, electricity, disease and more. In *National Security and the Accelerating Risks of Climate Change* (2016), the CNA Advisory Board (retired high level US military officers) writes: “The extent to which military forces will be used to protect the homeland in response to projected climate change impacts should not be limited by our past history of military deployments or limited by failures of imagination.” The violence over our children’s and grandchildren’s survival will be near and far, global and in our own streets. The responsible time for action is now.

PPF recently divested from fossil fuels in our PPF Endowment Fund at the Presbyterian Foundation. See our press release at [presbypeacefellowship.org/fossilfuel](http://presbypeacefellowship.org/fossilfuel), including:

*We are all implicated in the daily use of fossil fuels and we commit ourselves to changing both our consumer and investment behavior. We lift up concern for the impact of climate change on those who live in poverty and those who have been uprooted from their homes already. Mindful of the many families whose income is now dependent on fossil fuel extraction, we recognize the need for the development of new sources of income through creating alternative energy industries.*

–from “Investing for Life: Fossil Fuels are not Healthy for Children and Other Living Things”

Climate change divestment now is an opportunity to help reduce violence before it erupts. With a consensus on creation care, Presbyterians can be on the front line of fossil fuel divestment, not later and too late to sound a life-saving alarm.

**PPF does not support overtures 09-02, 09-03, 09-04 from the Presbytery of New Covenant or the 09-09 report from MRTI.** Many actions in these items can be added to divestment, but not replace divestment.

## **Mission Coordination – Committee 10**

**PPF supports 10-01 from the Presbytery of Newark: On Seeking to Eradicate Slavery from the Supply Chains of Vendors and Other Businesses (with which) the PC(USA) and Its Various Bodies Do Business** We are called to shine a light on the violence of slavery; we should not participate in it by our purchases. This overture could be strengthened by including congregations, camps, presbyteries and affinity groups.

**PPF opposes 10-02 from the Presbytery of Charleston-Atlantic, Regarding the Mission Responsibility through Investment (MRTI) Committee.**

This overture creates barriers to divestment by the PC(USA). Economic divestment is a nonviolent tool that, when used appropriately, can help transform injustice without using violence. While PPF may not agree with every recommendation of the MRTI ministry, we believe the denomination has been faithfully served by MRTI for decades, in its shareholder engagement with corporations and, when needed, in its recommendations to GA for or against divestment.

There are some good points in the 10-02 rationale, but the action proposal to replace members on MRTI who are responsible for mission implementation with more representatives elected by the Board of Pensions and the Presbyterian Foundation seems un-Presbyterian, as does the ambiguity in the overture about who exactly would make divestment decisions. MRTI already benefits from members and input from the Board of Pensions and Presbyterian Foundation. To our knowledge, never has MRTI made a divestment recommendation without adequate input, research and prayer. PC(USA) tradition is to empower small groups to engage with the issues and with the spirit, making recommendations on which the larger body will vote. We should continue that approach, with thanks to those who bring their expertise, gifts and time as volunteers and staff on MRTI. A better overture on divestment can be found in 12-05 from Muskingum Valley Presbytery: On Affirming Nonviolent Means of Resistance Against Human Oppression. See 12-05 below.

## **Social Justice Issues – Committee 11**

**PPF supports 11-03 from the Presbytery of Cascades: On Choosing to Be a Church Committed to the Gospel of Matthew 25.** This overture contains the seed of a new reformation, deepening our biblical and social awareness of and action for those Jesus calls “the least of these,” near and far. It involves all levels of the PC(USA) in a unified ministry. Peacemakers hear in Matthew 25 a call to transform the use of human resources, talent and genius away from war and towards building a world of compassion, opportunity and hope.

**PPF opposes 11-01 and 11-02 from the Presbytery of the Foothills** which seeks to require concurrence by 57 presbyteries before any social witness policy could come before the GA, to ban statements from the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (ACSWP) for 6 years and prevent it from serving as an “editor” or “clearinghouse” for overtures. (This may be referring to the Advice and Counsel memos that ACSWP routinely prepares for GA committees.) While PPF does not agree with every recommendation of ACSWP, the church receives exemplary service on complex issues by the expertise and discipline of this standing committee of the General Assembly. Working from positions taken by prior General Assemblies and assessing new realities, they help us see the history and larger context on issues of peace and justice in the world and how the gospel may apply on those issues.

**On Committee 11, the choice between the Foothills and Cascades overtures creates a clear choice for this GA: Shall Presbyterians be more engaged or less engaged in social justice and peacemaking work in the years ahead?**

Among many other important Committee 11 overtures, we lift up 3 that relate to violence against groups and individuals:

PPF supports 11-04 from the Synod of the Covenant: **On Supporting the Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Regarding Protecting Individuals from Violence and Discrimination**

PPF supports 11-10 from Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery: **On Reconciliation and Engagement in a New Civil Rights Movement** PPF affirms that overcoming systemic racism in America is fundamental to the gospel.

PPF supports 11-21, the report of the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (ACSWP) on “Human Trafficking and Human Rights: Children of God, Not for Sale” This is an outstanding report.

## **Peacemaking and International Issues - Committee 12**

PPF supports 12-01 from the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse: **On Acknowledging and Reconciling for Killing Korean Civilians in July 1950**; 12-04 from the Presbytery of Chicago: **Overture Pertaining to the Congo**; 12-05 from Muskingum Valley Presbytery: **On Affirming Nonviolent Means of Resistance against Human Oppression**; 12-07 - **New Hopes and Realities in Cuban-American Relations: A “Nuevo Momento;”** 12-08 from the Presbytery of National Capital: **On Urging PC(USA) Members to Promote Nonviolent Resolution to Disagreement**

### **Peacemaking Discernment & Nonviolence**

PPF supports 12-06 from ACSWP, **Risking Peace in a Violent World: Five New Peacemaking Affirmations**, with changes suggested below.

PPF supports 12-02 from Mission Presbytery: **On Celebrating the Completion of the Six-Year Discernment on Peacemaking**

As a conclusion to the six-year Discernment Process on Peacemaking launched by the 2010 GA, 12-06 is a report from ACSWP that recommends a set of five affirmations on peacemaking. The affirmations have been revised by ACSWP from those sent by the 2014 GA to the presbyteries for comments and advisory votes. **We find the revised affirmations disappointing in their failure to clearly focus on nonviolence as central to the peacemaking witness of the church.**

Why? Because we believe that the “Just War” theory does not stem from Jesus. Furthermore, we believe that war in the modern era no longer meets the criteria for “just wars” anyway. In **Appendix C** to the report, we see alternative wording for the affirmations from Daniel Ott, who served as a consultant to review the process and who reviewed all of the presbytery, synod and local church input. **The Presbyterian Peace Fellowship (PPF) endorses Ott’s recommendations to prioritize nonviolence and encourages the GA to replace the affirmations with Ott’s language.** That revision also satisfies the concerns of Overture 12-02, *On Celebrating the Completion of the Six-Year Discernment on Peacemaking*, from Mission Presbytery, which urges that the 12-06 report actually answer the challenge raised in 2010 to seek ways to respond to and prevent all violence, including the violence of our own nation.

**We are not alone in these concerns about Christ-centered responses to the violence of our time.** In April 2016, the Vatican hosted a groundbreaking Nonviolence and Just Peace Conference, calling on Pope Francis to issue an encyclical on active nonviolence, to promote nonviolent practices and strategies, to initiate a global conversation on nonviolence, and to end teaching the so-called “Just War” theory. Presbyterians are part of a global call to transform Christian witness.

## **Theological Issues & Institutions – Committee 14**

PPF opposes 14-01 from the Presbytery of Kiskiminetas, which attempts to reconsider the recent constitutional change providing for marriage equality. As peacemakers, we see marriage as peacemaking up close and personal; we honor those who enter into marriage. However, true peace requires human rights for all people and equal access to dignity and to the blessings of life. Welcoming into Christian fellowship those in same-sex marriages does not endanger those in traditional marriages. We continue to support the recent constitutional change.

Presbyterian Peace Fellowship  
17 Cricketown Road  
Stony Point, NY 10980

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



General Assembly Issue

## The Peace Breakfast Wed. June 22

at the 222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly  
Portland, Oregon Ticket Info p. 1

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**New at GA! Sat. June 18, 7am  
Progressive Partners Issues Briefing  
for Commissioners, Advisory Delegates  
& Visitors. Free breakfast. See p. 2**

All those who believe,  
not in war, but in peace, stand,  
and join the thunderous clapping  
of the angels.  
No more killing!  
Clap for peace until this world says:  
Another day, Another Peace ---from *Another Day, Another War* by Ann Barr Weems

***In Memoriam.... Ann Barr Weems, Poet,  
Activist, 2005 PPF Peaceseeker,  
Co-Chair, PPF Endowment Campaign***

### **GA Booth Events - Open to All Booth 109-111 Exhibit Hall**

**Sat. June 18 2:00-3:00 pm “A Gospel Vision for the Church” Emily Brewer**

A conversation with Emily Brewer, Co-Director of PPF, & Members of the PPF Activist Council

**Sun. June 19 1:45- 2:45 pm “What’s Oil Got to Do with It?”**

Join a discussion with young adults who just returned from the PPF Delegation to Iraqi Kurdistan

**Mon. June 20 10:00 – 11:00 am “What Does a Peace Church Look Like?”**

Join in an exchange of ideas with members of PPF

**Tues. June 21 10:30 - 11:30 am Bill Coop, Global Mission Advocate**

Dialogue with 2016 Peaceseeker Award Recipient

**Tues. June 21 3:30 – 4:30 pm Activists Against Human Trafficking,**

**Evelyn Chumbow & Jill Bolander-Cohen, Dialogue with 2015 Peaceseeker Award Recipients**

**Wed. June 22 10:15 – 11:15 am Rev. Osagyefo Uhuru Sekou, Peace Breakfast Speaker**

Come discuss his breakfast presentation and his work as an activist and organizer.

**Wed. June 22 2:00 – 3:00 pm “Faithful Resistance” Rick Ufford-Chase**

Come talk with Rick and with Aric Clark about Rick’s new E-book

**Visit Booth 109-111 to share concerns, find new nonviolence resources, souvenirs & more.**

**Exhibit Hall Hours:** Fri. June 17, 10am-7:30pm; Sat. June 18, 8:30-10:45am & 12:30-5pm & 5:30-7pm for Commissioners/Advisory Delegates only; Sun. June 19, 1:30-7:30pm; Mon June 20, 9am-7:30pm; Tues. June 21, 9am-5pm, Wed. June 22, 9:30am-5:30pm

#PPFGA

@presbypeace

ga@presbypeacefellowship.org