

## What you can do:

For application materials  
visit the Penn Central website at

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

contact Pastor Peter Emig at

717-263-3178

Or email

[solomonsucc@embarqmail.com](mailto:solomonsucc@embarqmail.com)

To make a donation, fill out the  
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Penn Central Conference  
United Church of Christ  
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Harrisburg, PA 17109

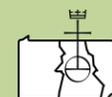
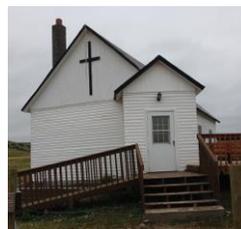
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### Partners in Peace 2016

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**PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*A unique opportunity for ages  
17-20*

# Partners in Peace 2016

*the journey  
continues....*

August 2-18, 2016

Two weeks in South Dakota to:

- explore the effects of colonization on indigenous people
- learn about the Doctrine of Discovery and the UCC resolution refuting it
- travel the land of our Lakota partners and hear their stories
- dialogue with all partners to seek common ground and form a plan of action

## Mission Statement Created by Partners in Peace Participants from 2013

In June of 2013 eighteen young adults and advisors from central Pennsylvania, North Carolina, South Dakota, Namibia [Africa] and Germany gathered for the first ever Partners In Peace Experience. Sponsored by Penn Central Conference it was conceived by the three Partnership Ministry Teams of Penn Central: the Namibia Partnership; the UEK Partnership [with the United Evangelical Churches of Germany]; and the Dakota Partnership [with Dakota Association of the United Church of Christ].

The adventure began at the Annual Meeting of Penn Central Conference where participants heard from various speakers such as Alexie Torres Fleming, the founder of Youth for Peace and Justice in South Bronx. It then moved to Penn Central's summer camp, Hartman Center, where they spent a week with noted sculptor and peace activist, Charles McCollough. For several days they visited Washington, D.C. where they met with representatives from the United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Center, members of Congress, and the Chaplain of the U.S. Senate. Before they returned to their homes they toured the U.S. Institute for Peace, the United States Capitol, and both the American Indian and Holocaust Museums.

Their departure did not mark an end to Partners in Peace. Plans are now in the works for a gathering in August of 2016, hosted by the Dakota Association, on the Cheyenne River Reservation in South Dakota. The program will examine peace in light of our nation's history, and its reliance on the **Doctrine of Discovery** to justify westward expansion and treatment of Native American Indians. Leading the young people will be Native Americans Toni and Byron Buffalo, and Lancaster Theological Professor Jacque Church Young.

Throughout this whole process, there has been the firm belief that bringing young adults together around the issue of peace will help build foundations for peace both in the present and future. That hope will certainly be realized with the prayers, and ongoing support of people like you!

So may God bless you in your support of Partners in Peace, and your efforts to bring peace to God's world!

In June 2013 we, 24 partners from Penn Central Conference, North Carolina, South Dakota, Germany, and Namibia, came together in Central Pennsylvania to explore peace, to discover the causes of violence, and to develop our personal abilities for peace-making.

### **Our definition of peace**

Peace is a way of living that encompasses every aspect of our life. It means creating social circumstances under which each and every person can lead a satisfying and meaningful life. Peace therefore is not merely the absence of violence, but rather the presence of justice, equality and the will to understand one another. A peaceful way of life not only embraces humans, but also the respectful treatment of our environment. Peace is a sort of firmness - it's about supporting the rights of all of God's creation.

### **The importance of peace**

"Peace on Earth" (Luke 2:14) is probably the most challenging task of our time. Violent conflicts exist in large numbers, and there is this concept - a fallacy really - that violence such as military engagement, can create effective, long-term solutions. In history, non-violent conflict resolutions have proven to be much more effective and longer lasting. Peace is important because it means sustaining and shaping the world for the present, future generations, and God. Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God" (Matthew 5:9). We as brothers and sisters in Christ and as global neighbors know the importance of keeping and making peace.

*You can learn more about Partners in Peace by visiting a YouTube video link at*  
<http://youtu.be/5Z8Rdb-JgNw>

### **The way to a more peaceful world**

Peace is hard work. We have to work within ourselves and in our communities. In our own lives, we must strive to treat people equally.

We will respect people we may not like at first sight. We must be open and just. We will commit to solving problems and conflicts instead of creating or enlarging them.

Sometimes, we must agree to disagree, but we should always work toward mutually satisfying solutions. We must look beyond our personal biases to see the spirit of God in every one of us.

We must respect our environment, and remember that it truly is borrowed from our posterity. We must consume only as much of our resources as we actually need. We will treat the animate and the inanimate as valuable.

We want to follow Jesus' path of non-violent resistance against injustice. We now know that being creative, and to invalidate our opponents' tools is an effective method of resistance. Through creative and sensitive means, we want to challenge oppression, cause rethinking and pioneer the path for a non-violent conflict resolution. As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "True peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice."

We will talk about the possibility of peace. We don't want to take the easy way out in saying that violence is the only possible and effective way. We reject this idea. We will spread the word about the success of peaceful conflict resolution and ask others to take that path.

From Partners in Peace, we bring home new hope that peace is possible, and we commit to being peacemakers in all of our words and actions.