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2009 Peacemaking Conference at the BIG TENT

June 11-13, 2009 in Atlanta, Georgia

[www.pcusa.org/bigtent](http://www.pcusa.org/bigtent)

[www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/conferences/2009.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/conferences/2009.htm)



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## YOU ARE INVITED . . . INTO THE NEIGHBORHOOD

The Big Tent Conference theme “*And the Word Became Flesh...*” (John 1:14a) affirms God’s presence among us in human form in Jesus Christ. Different translations tell us that in becoming flesh, the Word . . .

... *lived among us* (NSRV)

... *made his dwelling among us* (NIV)

... *full of grace and truth, lived among us* (TEV)

... *moved into the neighborhood* (The Message)

Jesus proclaimed the realm of God and invites us to live into that realm. As part of that invitation, Jesus calls us to make peace with our neighbors around the corner and across God’s world. Peacemaking Conference participants will have the opportunity to visit significant sites in metropolitan Atlanta where peacemaking occurred in the past and is taking place in the present, share stories from our own neighborhoods, and engage in public witness, small group discussions, and conversations on current issues as we explore how to do justice and seek peace following Jesus.



The Presbyterian Peacemaking Program is part of the Compassion, Peace and Justice Ministry of the General Assembly Council of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

For more information please contact the Peacemaking Conference Office:

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## BIG TENT COMMUNITY

The Big Tent provides an opportunity for Presbyterians to experience ten PC(USA) conference communities and cultures in the same location. Big Tent participants will share in a number of “common” experiences, planned in cooperation by all of the conference partners. The common Big Tent experiences are:

*Thursday, June 11*

- Conference Registration (12 noon—6:00 pm)
- Exhibit Hall (12 noon—6:00 pm)
- Dinner (6:00 pm—7:15 pm)
- Opening Worship (7:30 pm—8:30 pm)

*Friday, June 12*

- Morning Worship (9:00 am—10:00 am)
- Workshops (10:30 am—12 noon)
- Boxed Lunch (12 noon—1:30 pm)

*Saturday, June 13*

- Closing Worship (5:00 pm—6:00 pm)
- Parade and Celebration (6:00 pm—10:00 pm)

The registration form for the Big Tent involves a great deal of material and is somewhat complicated due to the unique nature of the event. Be patient and read the registration materials slowly, carefully, and thoughtfully. There is a great deal of information, numerous opportunities, and a variety of options and fees. Preparation before you register is essential. Download the *General Information Brochure* and *Registration Form* from the Big Tent Web page at [www.pcusa.org/bigtent](http://www.pcusa.org/bigtent) for assistance. If too many choices or options are not your cup of tea, you will still be able to participate in the Peacemaking Conference with the peacemaking community you love.

See you at the Big Tent!

## JUST PEACEMAKING

If you want to see and understand the Peacemaking Conference schedule, so you can register for only Peacemaking Conference opportunities this section is for you. Here is the Peacemaking Conference schedule in its entirety with descriptions of the various conference events.

In the following descriptions, several items appear in **bold font and underlined**. When you register, you will need to make a selection related to the **bold, underlined items on this flyer** on the registration form. This will help us determine the number of participants in these events.

To register for the Peacemaking Conference, you must indicate your *Conference Affiliation* as the **Presbyterian Peacemaking Conference** on the registration form. You will notice as you go through the form that some meals, tours and other program events offered by the Peacemaking Conference may require a fee. This fee is waived for those who have selected the Peacemaking Conference as their *Conference Affiliation*. Participants from other conferences may participate in these events by paying the fee. The exception is the Simple Dinner on Friday that is sponsored by the Peacemaking Committee of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta—everyone who attends must note that on the form and buy a ticket.

### Peacemaking Conference Schedule

#### Thursday, June 11

12 noon—6:00 pm	Registration
6:00 pm—7:15 pm	Dinner
7:30 pm—8:30 pm	Opening Worship
8:30 pm—9:30 pm	<b><u>Peacemaking Hospitality</u></b>

Join the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program staff in a time to reconnect with old friends and meet new ones. Talk with Gradye Parsons, PC(USA) Stated Clerk, about his role in the church's public witness. **There is no fee for this event, but be sure to check the box on the registration form to indicate you will attend.**

#### Friday, June 12

9:00 am—10:00 am	Morning Worship
10:00 am—10:30 am	Break
10:30 am—12 noon	Workshops
12 noon—1:30 pm	Box Lunch
1:30 pm—4:30 pm	<b><u>Welcome to the Block</u></b>

In this first gathering as the Peacemaking Conference, participants will build community through song and interaction, encounter the story and timeline of our peacemaking ministry in the PC(USA), and engage in small group conversations. *Leadership: Mark Lomax, First Afrikan Church, Lithonia, GA.*

3:00pm—3:30 pm	Coffee Break
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#### 5:00 pm—6:45 pm **SIMPLE DINNER @ North Avenue Presbyterian Church**

**You will need to buy tickets for this dinner! Check the box on the registration form to indicate you will attend. Tickets: \$12.00 for adults and \$8.00 for children (12 and under)**

Sponsored by the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta Peacemaking Committee, this dinner will take place at North Avenue Presbyterian on the corner of North Avenue and Peachtree Street (607 Peachtree St. NE). Funds raised from the meal will support peacemaking work in the Greater Atlanta area through the church and the presbytery. North Avenue Presbyterian Church supports a weekly Community Bible Study for men experiencing homelessness and Street GRACE, a network of churches committed to ending the commercial sexual exploitation of children in Atlanta. The Presbytery of Greater Atlanta Peacemaking Committee supports the *Open Door Community*.

#### 7:00 pm—9:00 pm **Dessert and Conversation**

**Check the box on the registration form to indicate you will attend. The fee for dessert is waived for those who have selected the Peacemaking Conference as their Conference Affiliation.** Enjoy dessert and unwind from the day with old and new friends through engaging conversations concerning our church, nation, and world. These are drop-in conversations. You need not select a topic in advance.

#### **Palestine and Israel**

“Peacemaking in Christianity’s First Neighborhood”  
Learn about the Joining Hands for Justice Partnership between the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta and a network of Palestinian churches, grass roots groups, and NGO’s in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Joining Hands is a program of the Presbyterian Hunger Program. *Sarah Humphrey, Director, Presbyterian Answer to Hunger, Presbytery of Greater Atlanta.*

“Carter Center’s Work in Palestine and Israel  
The Carter Center Human Rights Program focuses on advancing human rights, waging peace through shuttle diplomacy and dialogue, and supporting electoral reform and good governance. The program builds constructive relationships among Israeli and Palestinian human rights advocates, U.S. and U.N. policymakers, the media, and key U.S. constituent groups for the purpose of encouraging a U.S. foreign policy based on peace with justice and in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. *Sam Jones, Assistant Director of the Human Rights Program, Carter Center, Atlanta, GA.*

#### **Iraq**

Consider how events in Iraq (the aftermath of war, occupation, and violence) impact those serving in our military and their families, Iraqis—including those who have been driven from their homes and in some cases the country, the Christian community in Iraq, and others.

Ideas for ministry with our sisters and brothers will be shared. *Rick Ufford-Chase, Director, Presbyterian Peace Fellowship, Stony Point, NY and Mark Koenig, Coordinator, Presbyterian Peacemaking Program, Louisville, KY.*

### **Presbyterian Witness in Your Local and State Governments**

Explore how Presbyterians live out our call to ‘do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with our God’ in the public square. *Caroline Kelly, Associate Pastor, Central Presbyterian Church, Co-Chair, Public Policy Advocacy Committee, Presbytery of Greater Atlanta and Wendell Phillips, Public Policy Advocate, Presbytery of Greater Atlanta.*

### **Just Wages: Faith-Based Efforts to Increase the Minimum Wage in Georgia**

In 2007, the Georgia Minimum Wage Coalition enlisted the help and support of the faith community in its effort to raise the minimum wage in Georgia. This conversation will focus on the importance of faith-based components in public policy advocacy work and share the story of the impact the religious community can have on policy-making decisions. *Chris Henry, Associate Pastor, Morningside Presbyterian Church, faith-based organizer for the Georgia Minimum Wage Coalition, Atlanta, GA.*

### **Sustainability: A Matter of Faith**

How can congregations be passionate about earth stewardship as a model of faithful living? What resources are available to congregations for this ministry? *Kate McGregor Mosley, Southeast Regional Coordinator, Presbyterians for Restoring Creation, Decatur, GA.*

### **Immigration**

What changes do we need in our immigration system? How might the discussion around immigration change under a new administration? How do we welcome new immigrants in our churches and communities? Share ideas about how we can be part of the immigration story in the 21st century. We will talk about advocacy and ministry ideas related to immigration issues in our communities. *Julia Thorne, PC(USA) Immigration Counsel and Manager for Immigration Issues, Louisville, KY.*

### **Singing for Peace**

Singing songs of peace stirs our souls and gives voice to our vision and hope for a world where peace and justice prevail. In Civil Rights anthems, hymns of faith, classic folk tunes, and always a new song, we are renewed and emboldened as our voices are joined. Join the chorus as we sing songs of peace! *Jeff Peterson-Davis, Co-Pastor, Pioneer Memorial Presbyterian Church, Solon, OH.*

### **Combating Racism**

Developing an antiracist identity as a congregation and as individuals is a life-long journey that involves a conscious commitment to change. What is antiracism? Beginning with the definition that is in the PC(USA) antiracism training manual, participants will consider the meaning and implications for being antiracist and ways to develop

practices that promote equity and justice in our lives, congregations, and communities. *Sid Birt, Faculty, Concordia University and Mount Hood Community College, Chair of the Mission Support Committee, Cascades Presbytery, Portland, OR.*

### **The Proposed New Form of Government**

The latest version of the proposed new Form of Government is currently before the denomination for study and response. Join members of the Form of Government Task Force for conversation about this proposal, as it makes its way to the 219th General Assembly (2010). *Cindy Bolbach and Dan Williams, Co-Moderators, Form of Government Task Force.*

### **Peacemaking through a New Hymnal**

Explore how the new Presbyterian hymnal can become a peacemaking tool. *David Eicher, Hymnal Editor, Presbyterian Publishing Corporation.*

### **A Conversation with the PC(USA) Moderator/Vice-Moderator**

Listen to the stories and musings and ask questions of Moderator Bruce Reyes-Chow, and Vice-Moderator Byron Wade of the 218th General (2008) Assembly.

### **Refugee Resettlement and Immigration Services of Atlanta (RRISA)**

Affiliated with Church World Service, RRISA’s mission is to resettle refugees who are approved by the United Nations and US State department for refugee status. Annually, RRISA resettles about 550 refugees from around the world in the Atlanta area. Many have lived in refugee camps for 10-20 years after fleeing war, displacement, and political and religious persecution in their home countries. RRISA connects to Presbyterians in Greater Atlanta Presbytery and to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in this ministry of welcoming sisters and brothers to the neighborhood. *Meghan Brown Saavedra, Student, Columbia Theological Seminary and Intern, Refugee Resettlement and Immigration Services of Atlanta.*

9:00 pm—9:30 pm **Pray for Peace**

In the tradition of Jesus who prayed for the peace of Jerusalem, we will gather to pray for people, places, and situations around God's world. Participants will have the opportunity to identify concerns and joys to lift to God in a variety of forms of prayer. All participants are welcome!

**Saturday, June 13**

8:30 am—9:00 am **Taizé Worship**

Welcome the day with a time of prayer and song.

9:00 am—11:45 am **“In the Neighborhood”**

Through tours of Atlanta neighborhoods and guest speakers presenting models of peacemaking in Atlanta, participants will experience stories of peace.

### **PEACEMAKING TOURS and MODELS**

**Tours will travel into Atlanta neighborhoods.**

**Models will be presented at the Hyatt.**

**Select ONE Tour (page 3) OR Model (page 6) on the registration form. Space is limited.**

## **PEACEMAKING TOURS**

### **Wage Peace, Fight Disease and Build Hope: Carter Center**

Participants will walk the grounds and be introduced to the work of the Carter Center to wage peace, fight disease, and build hope. The tour will focus on the Center's efforts to help improve access to justice for ordinary Liberians as a means to secure the peace in Liberia. *Tom Crick, Associate Director, Conflict Resolution Program, Carter Center, Atlanta, GA.*

### **Nonviolence: Martin Luther King Center**

Through interactive media and exceptional displays, participants will gain insights and appreciation for Dr. King's commitment to nonviolence that undergirded his actions, speeches, and writings in the Civil Rights struggle. At the conclusion of the tour, there will be an opportunity for reflection and group discussion at Ebenezer Baptist Church. *Paul Roberts, Pastor, Church of the Master, Atlanta, GA.*

### **Combating Racism: Martin Luther King Center**

Participants will visit the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center and learn how nonviolent witness and protest combated racism. A discussion of current efforts to overcome racism will follow. *Loretta Terry, Co-Chair, Committee to Combat Racism, Presbytery of Greater Atlanta and Sid Birt, Faculty, Concordia University and Mount Hood Community College, Chair of the Mission Support Committee, Cascades Presbytery, Portland, OR.*

### **Urban Plunge: A Walking Tour of Atlanta**

This experience will provide a unique perspective on the neighborhood of inner-city Atlanta. Participants will traverse city streets and visit sites not as tourists, but from the perspective of those who are homeless, medically fragile, living with HIV/AIDS, and in need of services offered by social services and faith-based groups. The plunge will include visits to a local park, public spaces like the library and state capitol, and two congregation-based programs that provide services to Atlanta's homeless and poor. The plunge concludes at Central Presbyterian Church and will require walking approximately three (3) miles over the course of the morning. *Prince Davies-Venn, Chaplain/Case Manager, Clifton Sanctuary Ministries, Atlanta, GA*

### **International Health: Centers for Disease Control and Villa International**

Speakers from the Centers for Disease Control will address issues of children's health and HIV/AIDS. They will speak at Villa International, a Christian ministry of housing and hospitality that provides a home-away-from-home for international visitors in a friendly setting where guests can have privacy or enjoy the diverse community. *To be announced.*

## **PEACEMAKING MODELS**

### **World Pilgrims**

Judaism, Christianity, and Islam hold many values and traditions in common, but those who practice these religions rarely have meaningful contact with one another. World Pilgrims seeks to change this by providing people of these great religions a shared experience through the creation of interfaith pilgrimages. Pilgrims from all three faiths will tell their stories about developing friendships by playing, working, and advocating with and for one another. *Plemon El-Amin, Imam at the Atlanta Masjid of Al-Islam, Director of World Pilgrims, Shelley Rose, Associate Director, the Anti-Defamation League, Jan Swanson, Program Director of World Pilgrims, and Tayyibah Taylor, Founder, Editor, and Producer of Azizah, a magazine for Muslim women.*

### **Women's Action for New Directions**

Georgia Women's Action for New Directions (WAND) is a women's peace organization whose mission is to empower women (and men) to act politically, reduce militarism and violence, and redirect excessive military spending towards unmet human and environmental needs. *Amanda Hender-Voss, Faith Based Coordinator for the WAND Educational Fund and Bobbie Paul, Executive Director Atlanta WAND Chapter, Atlanta, GA.*

### **Atlanta Ministry with International Students-Mission at our Doorstep**

In 2008, 563,000 international students were present in the United States. Every ten years 1,000,000 international students will receive degrees from U.S. They will be the future political, economic, social, and religious leaders in their nations. These international students give PC(USA) members opportunities to be involved in mission and peacemaking and to develop multicultural, interfaith, and world understanding. *Fabed Abu-Akel, Executive Director of Atlanta Ministry with International Students and Moderator of the 214th General Assembly (2002) of the PC(USA).*

12 noon—1:30 pm      Lunch

2:00 pm—4:00 pm      **Won't You Be My Neighbor**

During this closing event of the Peacemaking Conference, participants will debrief their morning experiences, consider their next steps, and ponder how to engage their neighborhoods back home. *Leadership: Mark Lomax, First Afrikan Church, Lithonia, GA.*

5:00 pm—10:00 pm      Closing Worship

6:00 pm—10:00 pm      Parade and Celebration

