

# Too Much to Tell

A Skit Promoting the Peacemaking Offering in Congregations  
By W. Mark Koenig and Rachel Pedersen

July 2005

*(RENEE, ANNE, and STEVE enter. They carry a number of Peacemaking Program resources, Peace Notes and Paths of Peace prominent among them.)*

Renee: I will never manage to complete this assignment.

Anne: Honestly, Renee, I don't know what you're complaining about. It's all so absolutely fascinating.

Renee: Fascinatingly overwhelming. *(RENEE turns away from the other characters.)*

Steve: *(To ANNE.)* What's her problem?

Anne: She has to do a minute for mission on the Peacemaking Offering. Congregations will receive the offering on October 2.

Steve: It's a great offering. We keep 25 percent of the offering in our congregation. We will use it to *(fill in the blank with the details of how your congregation will use the offering)*. What's so hard about doing a minute for mission?

Renee: *(Turns back to rejoin the conversation.)* What's so hard about it? I'll tell you what. They asked me to tell what the Peacemaking Program did last year.

Steve: And?

Renee: *(Tries to pick up a pile of resources; takes so many that some of them fall.)* There's too much.

Anne: Really, Renee, it's quite simple. Steve, help me show her.

Steve: OK. What sort of events did Peacemaking Program staff members lead last year?

Anne: They preached and taught and presented workshops at conferences and in presbyteries, congregations, and synods.  
They assisted with a consultation for presbytery leaders on Israel and Palestine.  
They participated in the antiracism and cultural proficiency initiatives of the church.  
They arranged visits to 46 presbyteries by 13 International Peacemakers, and they helped arrange the visits to 35 presbyteries by Interfaith Listening Teams.  
They called presbytery and synod chairs twice during the year to provide encouragement and support.  
They held a conference at Ghost Ranch with the theme "Transforming Fear into Love."

Steve: What kind of travel/study opportunities did the Peacemaking Program provide?

Anne: A young adult seminar to Guatemala and a seminar to Cuba that visited former International Peacemakers.

Steve: What did the Presbyterian United Nations Office do?

Anne: They hosted seminars for congregations and presbyteries that included many amazing young people, arranged a visit to the UN for General Assembly Moderator Rick Ufford-Chase . . . and Haruun Ruun from the Sudan . . . and Mitri Raheb from Bethlehem held a January Term Doctor of Ministry class on Religion and Violence and worked with the UN Nongovernmental Organizations working group on Israel/Palestine.

Steve: Did the Peacemaking Program create any new resources?

Anne: Lots. Bulletin inserts on life issues for families; resources for Christian Family week; an issue of *Church & Society* magazine containing articles, studies, and activities by and for young adults and youth about praying, learning, and doing peace; a study guide on Violence, Religion, and Terrorism; an intergenerational Bible study on children in the Gospel of Matthew; a CD of resources on Israel/Palestine; information and ideas for action about Iraq, Sudan and Darfur, the military draft, Colombia, proposals for new nuclear weapons; and prayers for peace and justice concerns posted each week on the Spiritual Nurture page of the Web page—just go to [www.pcusa.org/peacemaking](http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking) and click on the Spiritual Nurture icon and you'll see it.

Steve: What about publications?

Anne: There's the Web page, [www.pcusa.org/peacemaking](http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking). *Peace Notes* is a free and quarterly newsletter with stories of peacemakers and announcements about events and resources. *Paths of Peace* is written by young adults for young adults. It too is free and comes out quarterly. The Office of Family and Intergenerational Ministries, the Young Adult Network, and the Presbyterian United Nations Office all have read-only e-mail lists that help keep people informed. There is a general Peacemaking Program e-mail list as well.

Renee: Enough. Enough. See what I mean. There is so much. Too much to tell.

Anne: And the gifts of Presbyterians to the Peacemaking Offering make it all possible.

Renee: Anne, I don't know how you do it.

Anne: It's so simple, Renee. I have [www.pcusa.org/peacemaking](http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking) bookmarked on my computer. I visit it. Often. I read every issue of *Peace Notes* and *Paths of Peace*. Twice. At least. I joined the e-mail lists. There's a link to subscribe to the publications and the e-mail lists at the top of the Web page. And if I have any questions, I never hesitate to call the staff.

Steve: There you have it, Renee. That's what the Peacemaking Program did. That's all you've got to say. (*Pause.*) I guess we have already said all that needs saying.

Renee: Except to invite people to contribute generously to the Peacemaking Offering. (*Pause.*) Say I just did that, too. What is left to say? (*Pause.*)

ALL: May the peace of Christ be with you.

(RENEE, ANNE, and STEVE exit.)

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***About the Skit***

*Adapt the skit to fit the specific situation in which it is used. The skit is written for use in congregations but can easily be rewritten for use in other settings. Women or men of all ages can play any character. Change names as needed. The skit requires a minimum of props that can be easily obtained.*

***About the Authors***

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