



# Peace & Justice SUPPORT NETWORK

Mennonite Mission Network's alumni service-learning tour group visited the Hopi Reservation and the Peace Academic Center in Kykotsmovi, Arizona, during its trip to Arizona, Nov. 9-17, 2019. From left to right: Gloria Graber, Kay Neff, Dan Lapp, Shirley Lapp, Linda Van Loon, Lance Polingyouma, Jane Polingyouma, Abram Moyer, Judy Harder, Glenda Moyer, Michelle Schrag, Cheryl Lehmann, Keith Harder, Marcia Shantz, Dwight Mueller, Carl Shantz, Susan Nisly, Wesley Bisset Ncube, Arloa Bontrager, Eric Polingyouma and Jason Boone. Photo by Laurie Oswald Robinson.

## God bless you, friends!



**I**t's been a privilege to serve with the Peace and Justice Support Network (PJSN) for nearly 10 years. In that time, I believe PJSN contributed positively to Mennonite peacemaking. From continuing our historic opposition to militarism to addressing newer issues, like the spiritual wounds of war and

bystander intervention, we never remained static.

With so many problems and instances of violence in our world, it's good we were able to be flexible and agile in our approach. We produced educational materials, organized events, worked on denominational resolutions and statements, ran a podcast, spoke in churches and at conferences, and worked one-on-one with peacemakers pursuing justice in their local communities.

**Even though PJSN is ending, peacemaking will continue to be a focus at Mission Network.**

I organized my work around the question, "What does the church need from PJSN at this time?" I didn't always have the right answers, but I always tried to make sure PJSN offered relevant, practical support to peace and justice work happening in Mennonite Church USA.

Your support has enabled Mennonite Mission Network to do this peace and justice work on behalf of the church. Practically, your financial contributions have helped fund the production of materials, provided for travel, and enabled the support of grassroots peace initiatives in the church. Spiritually and emotionally, your support — through donations, prayers, and personal displays

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Photo by Will LaVeist

(L-R) Melissa Clarke, Lynn Parks, Grace Jackson and Jason Boone pray for each other's ministries at the Second Annual African American Mennonite Leadership Gathering in Philadelphia Sept. 16-17, 2016.



Photo provided

Jason Boone and Susan Nisly co-lead a Youth Venture team to Barcelona in 2018. Pictured here, from left to right: Alexi Ebersole, Kayla Stutzman, Rian Foley, Alyssa Nisly, Erika Stutzman, Rebecca Nisly, Jason Boone and Susan Nisly.

## God bless you, friends!

*(Continued from page 1)*

of support and affirmation — gave me the energy and enthusiasm I needed in my role.

Even though PJSN is ending, peacemaking will continue to be a focus at Mission Network. We were part of a larger mosaic of peace and justice work that happens every day among individuals, churches, conferences and organizations.

For nearly 10 years, I've been writing to you in *DoveTales* and in letters — and you've written back! I've gotten a lot of encouragement and feedback from you through the years. I've visited many of you in your homes and in your churches. It is a strange thing, to develop a relationship with so many people, as individuals and as a collective, in such a way as we have.

But a relationship it is, and I grieve this chapter coming to an end.

The Scripture that has been on my mind and heart since this transition announcement is the story of Jesus and the woman at the well. "But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth" (John 4:23-24 ESV).

I feel that you and I have bonded in a special way, in spirit and truth, as we have traveled the path of Jesus



Photo by David East

PJSN sponsored an art exhibit and auction during the 2019 Mennonite Convention in Kansas City, Kansas. Jason Boone and Veronica Horst stand beside her woodcarving, titled "Her parlance is peace."

together. I'm grateful to have traveled with you. For me, that bond will always remain.

God bless you, friends! If we happen to meet again somewhere down the road, we will rejoice. If not, we'll rejoice for the time we had together.

Peace.

*Jason Boone*

Jason Boone  
Minister of Peace and Justice

Help Mennonite Mission Network continue the work of peace and justice in all of our ministries with a donation today. [www.MennoniteMission.net/Donate](http://www.MennoniteMission.net/Donate).

# Forging continued peace and justice at Mennonite Mission Network

**M**ennonite Mission Network's urgent pursuit is that, across the street and around the world, people of all cultures would encounter the transformative gospel of Jesus. In his ministry of preaching, teaching and healing (physically, emotionally, spiritually), Jesus modeled the way of fostering peace on earth. This points to the ongoing call on the church to reach out to people and cultures with the whole gospel. It also aligns with the new Mennonite Church USA theme, "Be Transformed," that we work to follow.

"How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent?" (Romans 10:14-15 NIV). God invites us, Jesus sends us and the Holy Spirit empowers us to mobilize both the Great Commandment and the Great Commission, extending the community of faith and continuing the ministry of Jesus to bring justice and peace, redemption, and renewal to the world.

Jesus was a peacemaker and multiplied peacemaking through his disciples. Before Jesus left this earth, he said to his disciples, "Peace I leave you, My peace I give you" (John 14:27 NASB). It is this peace that undergirds the Great Commandment to love our neighbor and energizes the Great Commission to foster disciples who continue building peace. It is our intention at Mission Network that this core value of peacebuilding would infuse all areas of our organization.

The Peace and Justice Initiative has done good and necessary work. Now, we want to apply this experience, integrating the peace and justice focus in all ministries at Mission Network. The Peace and Justice Support Network (PJSN), as a specific initiative, has

concluded, but the values and activities will live on in our organization, adding a dimension of additional vibrancy to the work being done. Our church planting training program prepares church planters to establish peace churches. Our discipleship training program prepares participants to "Be Transformed" by developing a "culture of discipleship" in their churches. Our international workers and partners work together at sharing the gospel and building peace. Service programs at Mission Network provide opportunities for peace building,

by putting God's love into action. We also offer numerous opportunities to bring the peace back into your community, through our resources and firsthand experiences, like the Civil Rights Learning Tour and Building Communities of Peace excursion to Colombia.

In all we do at Mission Network, we desire to walk with people in partnership, fostering God's peace and wholeness in the world. Our mission statement makes this clear. Mission Network exists to "participate in holistic witness to Jesus Christ." This statement pulls together three pillars that are essential to bringing the peace: Jesus, community and reconciliation. Walking with Jesus, we witness to the Prince of Peace by partnering with the local church and the global faith community to build hope, healing and renewal across the street and around the world.

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The peace of Christ be with you!

*Mike Sherrill*

Mike Sherrill  
Executive Director and CEO  
Mennonite Mission Network



**DoveTales**

Peace and Justice Support Network  
Mennonite Mission Network  
PO Box 370  
Elkhart, IN 46515

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## **New video series!**

Check out our brand new "Stir Up Peace" video series!  
Learn nonviolent direct action tools to seek positive change in your community.

[MennoniteMission.net/resources/peace/stir-up-peace](https://www.MennoniteMission.net/resources/peace/stir-up-peace)