

## Peace & Justice SUPPORT NETWORK

Welcome to  
the redesigned  
*DoveTales*.

# Active pacifism



I heard it again last week. A friend who belongs to another Christian denomination said he believed in non-violence, but could never call himself a pacifist. “Pacifism is too disengaged, not active enough in the face of evil.”

We had a lively discussion about this.

You’ve likely heard this same complaint and had similar discussions. Of course, there was a time of being the “quiet in the land,” but that’s more the exception, not the rule, for Mennonite peacemakers and pacifists.

When I first began to learn about Mennonites, I was drawn in by the focus on Jesus as the center of the faith. I was hooked when I began to understand the dynamic ways Mennonites have taken that faith out into the world in creative ways. This goes as far back as the earliest Anabaptists who publicly rejected the coercive religion of the State. It continued in efforts like establishing conscientious objector status, rejection of supporting the military through tax resistance, the formation of organizations like Christian Peacemaker Teams that bring active non-resistance to the most dangerous conflicts. These are just the tip of the iceberg.

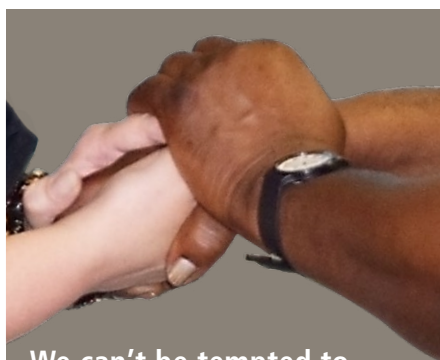
And we aren’t talking only about ancient history. Mennonites continue to find new expressions of our faith that impact the world in ways that look like Jesus. Our work with trauma healing, with the Doctrine of Discovery, anti-racism efforts, building healing relationships with returning veterans—all these and more testify to the character of peacemaking being anything but passive!

As I write this, our nation is in the midst of natural disasters and social conflagrations. The hatreds and prejudices hidden in the human heart have once again found

expression in political violence. The difference between our current state of affairs and violent eruptions of the past is that the ties that formerly helped us weather those stormy times are frayed to the point of failure.

Our institutions have been weakened. Mistrust between people has undermined our political systems. The anxiety of these stressful times can make the best of us want to throw up our hands and focus on seeking peace for our families and communities only.

Now more than ever, we can’t be tempted to retreat into a “passive” pacifism. On the contrary, we need to redouble our efforts to find ways to bring our faith in Jesus to a world that cries out for healing and reconciliation.



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*Continued on page 2*

## Active pacifism

Continued from page 1

The Peace and Justice Support Network is working to equip our Mennonite churches and peace-makers in these steps forward into turbulent times and situations. In this issue of *DoveTales*, you'll learn more about bystander intervention training. Learning what to do when you are witness to acts of intimidation and harassment allows us to go forward with the skills to be good neighbors to all. There's also information about how your church can learn more about drone warfare, a deceptive manifestation of violence that promises a more humane war, but in reality only extends and enlarges war.

Your prayers and financial support allow us to develop and offer these resources that spread the peace of Jesus when it's desperately needed. Thank you for your gifts. There's nowhere else I'd rather be in the current climate than with you, in our Mennonite faith and church, walking together on the path of peace.

Peace!



Jason Boone  
Coordinating Minister  
Peace and Justice Support Network

*We hope that our new DoveTales design will be more likely to be picked up and easier to read. Fortunately, it is also less expensive to print! I hope you like it.*

# Spread the Peace grants

## Q and A

### Q: What are Spread the Peace grants?

A: To encourage congregations and conferences to “spread the peace” in and beyond Mennonite Church USA, the Peace and Justice Support Network has small start-up, sustaining, and expansion grants available.

### Q: What are Spread the Peace grants for?

A: Spread the peace grants support Mennonite Church USA congregational and conference peace initiatives.

### Q: How large are the grants?

A: Up to \$1,000.

### Q: Who can apply?

A: Mennonite Church USA churches or conferences.

### Q: Are there other criteria?

A: Yes. Applicants must raise matching funds from their local community to receive a Spread the Peace grant.

### Q: How can I apply?

A: Apply online at [www.pjsn.org](http://www.pjsn.org).

### Q: When are you accepting applications?

A: Applications are accepted from Oct. 1–Dec. 31.



## Did you know?

**P**JSN administers the Student Aid for Non-Registrants Fund (SAFNR). This special non-budget fund was established in 1983. The purpose is to help replace potential government grants and loans lost by students who for reasons of Christian conscience choose not to register with the U.S. Selective Service System. For more information, and to access an application, visit [www.pjsn.org](http://www.pjsn.org).



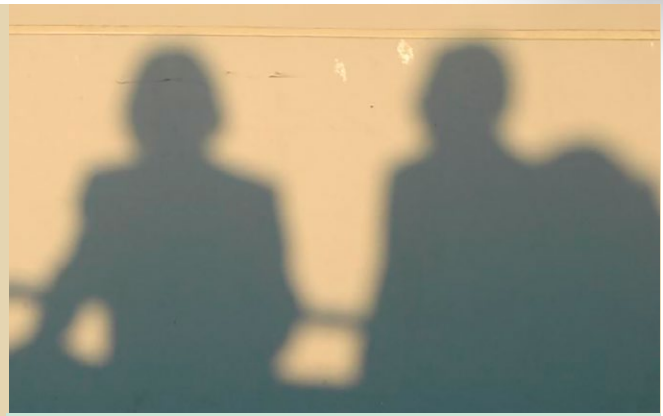
## Peace & Justice SUPPORT NETWORK

*DoveTales* is a publication created by the Peace and Justice Support Network of Mennonite Church USA to resource individuals and congregations in their pursuit of Christian peacemaking and justice seeking. Ideas, articles and reports can be submitted to the editor. **PJSN advisory council:** Dominique Chew, Goshen, Indiana; Jeff Hochstetler, Berlin, Ohio; Dave Hockman-Wert, Corvallis, Oregon; Erica Littlewolf, Albuquerque, New Mexico; Rachele Lyndaker Schlabach, Washington, D.C.; and Jennifer Davis Sensenig, Harrisonburg, Virginia. **Editor:** Jason Boone, coordinating minister for the Peace and Justice Support Network, PO Box 370, Elkhart, IN 46515-0370; 1-866-866-2872, ext. 23065; [Peace@MennoniteUSA.org](mailto:Peace@MennoniteUSA.org). **Copy editor:** Karen Hallis Ritchie. **Designer:** Cynthia Friesen Coyle. **PJSN website:** [www.PJSN.org](http://www.PJSN.org). Opinions expressed in *DoveTales* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official positions of Mennonite Church USA or the Peace and Justice Support Network.

# Bystander intervention

**W**hat's worse than being targeted for harassment? Being targeted for harassment when surrounded by bystanders who look away. In partnership with our friends at Raleigh (North Carolina) Mennonite Church, the Peace and Justice Support Network is offering a free Sunday school curriculum that will equip you with the knowledge and skills to be a peacemaker when you witness someone being harassed.

Bystander intervention is based on five D's. Read them here, then visit [pjsn.org](http://pjsn.org) to access the full curriculum.



**Distract** Interrupt the situation. Ignore the harasser and engage the person who is being targeted.

**Delegate** Ask others to help out. Before calling 911, ask the victim.

**Delay** If you can't act in the moment, check with the victim after the abuse.

**Document** Film the abuse. Ask the victim what to do with the footage.

**Direct** Respond directly to the harasser only if you and the victim are safe and if it seems unlikely that the situation will escalate.

## Seeing in full color

By Jason Boone

**W**e had been driving since early that morning and still had a lot of hours to go. Everything blends in after enough hours in a car, and we didn't even talk about what we might want for dinner. We just pulled into the first place we saw.

It was clean and bright inside, busy, but not full. We sat down at a table and waited for our server.

We waited.

And waited.

And waited.

"This is ridiculous," I said.

"Sure," he said, looking at me a little strangely.

"What?" I asked.

"You know what's going on here, right?"

"Yes, I do. It's called 'poor customer service' and it will be reflected in my tip."

"Look around. What do you notice about everyone in here?"

"I notice they are all eating food and being served and we aren't. Did I miss anything?"

"Who's the only African American here?"

"You are, but what does that have to do with anything?"

We're not talking about race; we're talking about how come we aren't being waited on. If you want to talk about race, that's fine, but first, let's at least get our order in ..."

Yep, right in mid-sentence, I finally got it.

I thought I had mastered everything one needed to know about racism. I had read books, gone to conferences, had deep, sometimes uncomfortable conversations about it. I thought I knew everything I needed to know. I thought I had graduated!

But I couldn't see it until I was 10 hours into a road trip with a Black friend, and he spelled it out to me.

I couldn't see, as a White person, that the racism that has been the cause of so much pain and sin is still an active, insidious presence in the world.

I guess I thought that when the visible, repugnant signs are absent—the burning crosses, the "Whites Only" instructions—then there is no racism present. Yet somehow we had stumbled into a "Whites Only" restaurant. In 2005. In the United States. I was stunned. My real education had just begun.

This story is embarrassing. My naivety is embarrassing. I hate to look dumb. But this is one of the most important stories in my life. It taught me more than anything else about race, racism, power, Whiteness, and so much more. I'm still being taught by it, 12 years later.

We eventually had dinner in that restaurant. My friend said, "We're staying until they serve us or kick us out." The rest of our trip was uneventful. We didn't have any more trouble in restaurants or anywhere else. Not that I could see anyway. But that's the problem—I couldn't see.



## DoveTales

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

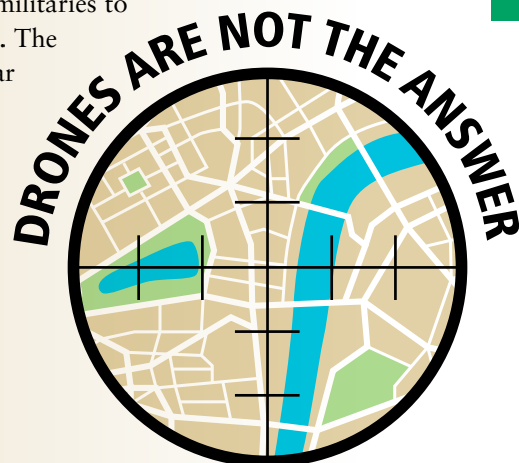
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# Drone warfare

**E**ven as we contend with fractious times in our nation, the United States continues to prosecute wars connected to the events of Sept. 11, 2001. Drone warfare has become a key part of these wars. In some quarters, drones are touted as being a humane way of war-making that decreases civilian casualties. That's not accurate! Drones allow militaries to bring wars to places they normally would not venture. The use of drones doesn't make war better—they make war bigger.

Our friends at the Inter Faith Drone Network are offering free 30-minute films about drone warfare for screenings at churches. The Peace and Justice Support Network is offering financial support for churches who host screenings. This support can go toward promoting the screening in your community, refreshments, or other costs that may be associated with showing these films. Visit [pjsn.org](http://pjsn.org) for more information, and schedule a screening for your church today.



Peace and Justice Support Network is a partnership with Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Mission Network.