

Peace & Justice

SUPPORT NETWORK

I need your help!



The Peace and Justice Support Network exists to support, encourage and strengthen peace and justice across Menonite Church USA. How that happens takes many forms. PJSN produces resources: Sunday school lessons, Peace Sunday materials, *PeaceSigns*, the PeaceLab podcast, and more. We offer Spread the Peace grants to support your peace and justice work. PJSN also collaborates with other peace groups and Menonite organizations like Christian Peacemaker Teams, Dove's Nest, the National Peace Tax Fund. There's more I could write about, but you get the idea.

I am proud of the work we do, enabled by your prayers and financial support. But none of the resources we create, or opportunities we offer, matter much if they aren't meeting the needs of peacemakers in our church.

I like to think we have been meeting those needs. But we are in an especially volatile time as a peace church and peacemakers. It's always been this way to some degree, but the number of urgent peace and justice issues seems to have exploded in the past year.

Domestically, we are all more aware of the injustices that plague our nation. The scourge of sexualized violence, the epidemic of mass incarceration, the renewal of White supremacy groups, increasing environmental exploitation, scandalous treatment of immigrants—the list is long and painful.

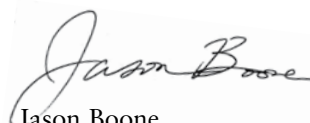
And while these issues grab our hearts and minds, our nation continues to wage war abroad. The perpetual wars we have been engaged in since 2001 continue, yet our appetite for more conflict only grows. We continue to threaten the use of violence to solve international conflict.

All this is happening while we fragment as a nation. Formerly cherished ideals like civility, collaboration and compromise have been replaced by a toxic tribalism that punishes attempts at unity and understanding.

Surveying this landscape, it's difficult to know where to focus our attention and resources. It feels that no matter what issue or topic we work on, we will be leaving out equally deserving ones. But I'm reminded that our mandate isn't to work independently on these things; our goal is to support, strengthen and encourage peacemakers in our church.

So in this issue of *DoveTales*, I'm seeking your input—how can PJSN be most helpful in supporting your peace and justice efforts? Please take a moment to respond to the questions inside and return them to us. I guarantee you that this isn't an empty exercise. I will use your feedback to shape how PJSN works in the months and years ahead.

Thanks for continuing to allow me to serve with PJSN, and to serve our church in this way.



Jason Boone
Coordinating Minister
Peace and Justice Support Network

PJSN needs your **feedback!**

How do we keep our church safe in a world that feels more dangerous than ever? You can complete this survey online at www.PJSN.org. Or, answer the questions below and return your answers to us in the envelope provided. Your feedback will help shape how PJSN works in the months and years ahead.

1. What topics or issues would you like to see PJSN address? Check the three topics that are most important to you and your congregation in the next two years.

- Militarism (war taxes, drone warfare, Selective Service registration, etc.)
- Conflict resolution in congregations
- Gun violence
- Peace education (helping others in our church and beyond embrace Jesus' call to peacemaking)
- Undoing racism and other forms of discrimination
- Nonviolent direct action training and education
- Immigration
- Economic justice
- Mass incarceration
- Other (please specify) _____

2. What types of resources would be most likely to be used by you and those in your congregation or community? Check no more than three.

- Printed study guides for Sunday school classes and small groups
- Video-based study guides for Sunday school classes and small groups
- In-person trainings
- Webinar trainings
- Worship resources (litanies, visuals, sermon starters)
- Podcasts
- Blogs, articles and stories
- Peacemaking identifiers—(lawn signs, T-shirts, banners, etc.)
- Regional gatherings or conferences

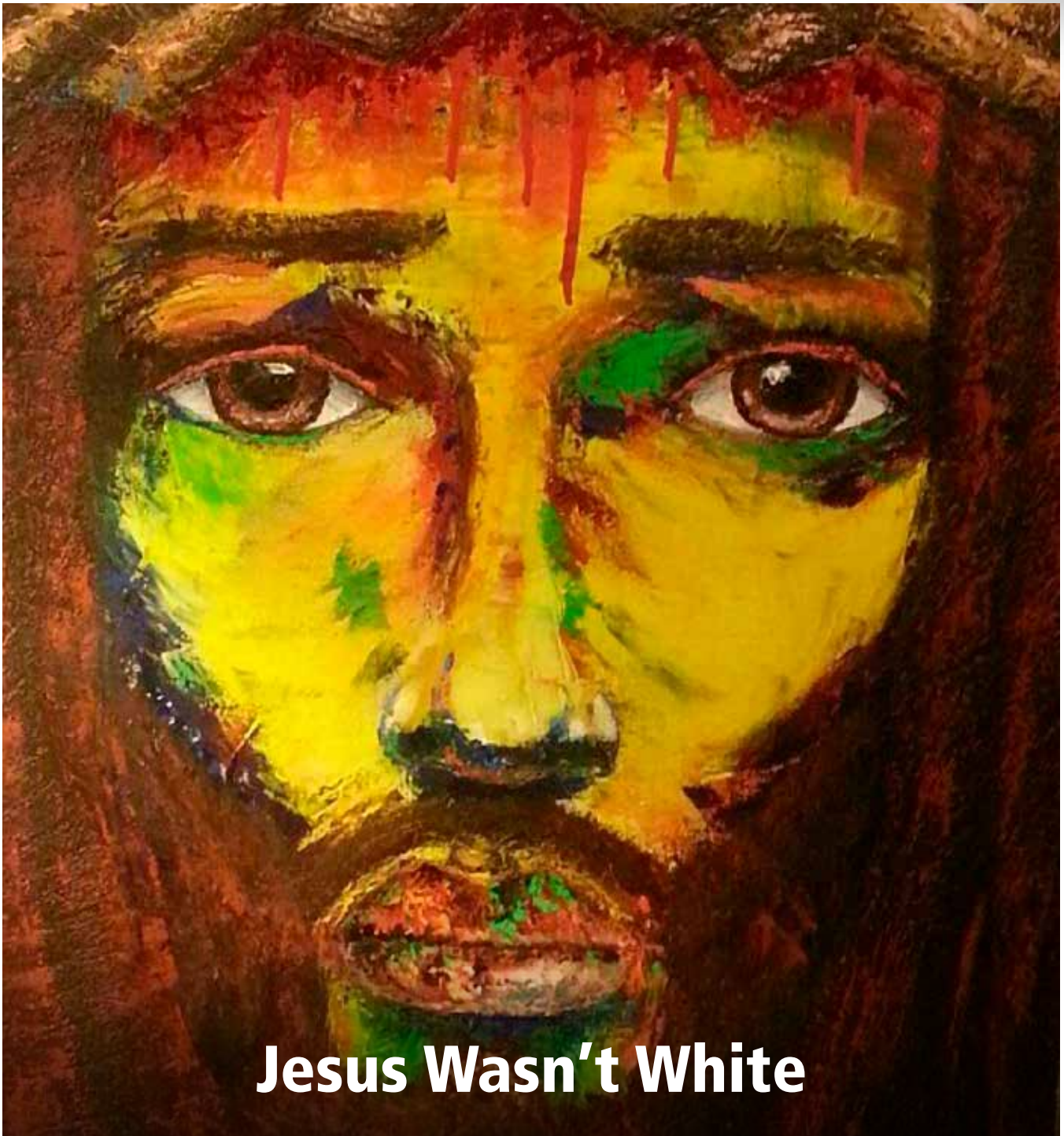
3. As we look ahead to Mennonite Church USA Convention in 2019, what types of opportunities would you like to see PJSN offer there? Check no more than three.

- Seminars/workshops
- Evening gathering for peacemakers
- Opportunities for public witness/action
- Daily prayer for peace and justice opportunities
- Other (please specify) _____

4. Any other feedback you'd like to give regarding the direction and focus of PJSN?

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; Rachelle 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. **Copy editor:** Karen Hallis Ritchie. **Designer:** Cynthia Friesen Coyle. **PJSN website:** 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.**



Jesus Wasn't White

The sin of racism continues to cause dissention and violence in our country. Despite the progress that has been made, we continue to find racism at the center of injustice and inequality in all parts of society, even the church.

For people of faith, what if the roots of racism go deeper than we've ever acknowledged? What if racism is embedded in the very image of the One we look to for hope, comfort and justice? What if the pictures of Jesus that we've known for so long contribute to the racism we work and pray to eliminate?

PJSN invites you to watch our video, *Jesus Wasn't White*, at www.PJSN.org. While the issues the video raises may

be uncomfortable for some, we invite you to take this step toward understanding how racism is subtly present in even the most familiar places. And how that racism has tragic, real-life consequences.

In addition to the video, you'll find discussion questions that can be used to help your Sunday school class or small group reflect on the issues the video raises.

If you'd like to request a speaker to visit your church to discuss this video and the issues it raises, please contact me at JasonB@MennoniteUSA.org.



DoveTales

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

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Spread the Peace grants **Q and A**

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

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: Who can apply?

A: Mennonite Church USA churches or conferences.

Q: How large are the grants?

A: Up to \$1,000.

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.

Q: When are you accepting applications?

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