

# Peace & Justice SUPPORT NETWORK

## Now is the time

by Jason Boone



**I** think it's safe to say 2018 will be another year full of challenges and opportunities for peacemakers.

The turmoil in our nation is only increased by a dysfunctional political system. The animosity, entrenched racism, increased poverty, and despair will not stop anytime soon.

That's not to mention our massive, destructive military engagements around the world. Since 2001, we've been at perpetual war. This horrible reality gets lost in the noise of 24-hour news cycles and bitter infighting between political opponents.

In the midst of this mess, the world needs active peace churches more than ever. It needs peacemakers who refuse to compromise beliefs to win partisan battles, who refuse to kill in pursuit of peace, who are brave enough to love those who are supposed to be enemies.

The world needs a vision of what is possible, a vision of true change and restoration for people and communities who've been hurt by the greed and violence that has become depressingly acceptable.

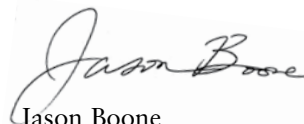
Only a church centered on Jesus can form and support those peacemakers. Only a church centered on Jesus can communicate and live into that vision.

Mennonites have kept Jesus at the center of our faith for nearly 500 years. We'll continue, together, to do so, and to venture out to meet the challenges ahead of us, joining in God's mission of reconciliation for all.

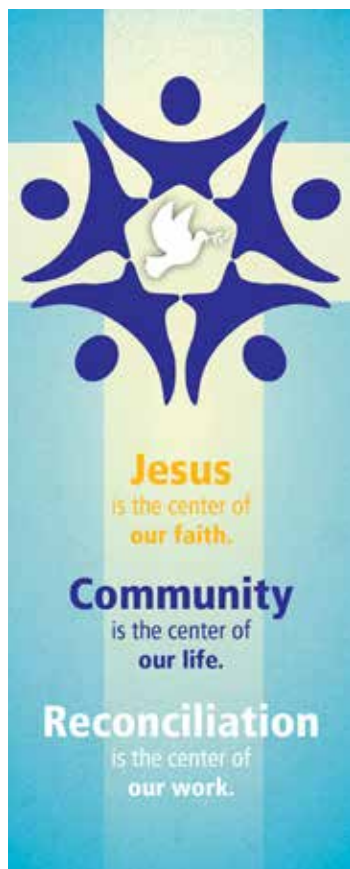
And the Peace and Justice Support Network will continue developing resources and opportunities to support, encourage and strengthen our peace witness. Read about these resources and opportunities in this issue of *Dove Tales*. Please don't hesitate to be in touch with me to discuss these items, or any other way PJSN can be of assistance to you in your peacemaking.

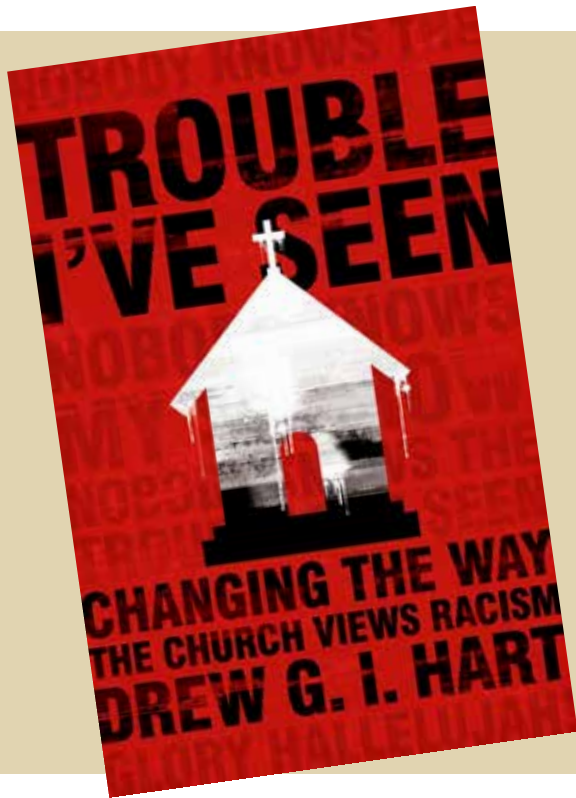
Together, following the path of Jesus, we can turn the challenges we face today into new ways of proclaiming, and living out, the kingdom of God.

Peace!



Jason Boone  
Coordinating Minister  
Peace and Justice Support Network





## Peacemaker Book Club

PJSN is excited to announce the kickoff of our **Peacemaker Book Club!** Taking advantage of easy-to-use videoconferencing tools, PJSN is launching a virtual book club that will meet for four weeks in April. Our first book will be Drew Hart's *Trouble I've Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism*. Join other peacemakers from across the church in discussing this important book. Don't have a copy? Don't worry! PJSN is happy to provide one to book club members.

We're keeping the group small in size to generate good discussion. Visit [www.PJSN.org](http://www.PJSN.org) to learn more and sign up today!

## Drone warfare

Even 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 & 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](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.

# Where does our tax money go?

It's that time of the year when we face the reality that the taxes we pay contribute to a war machine that brings death and destruction across the globe.

Mennonites and other peacemakers have responded to this unsettling fact in various ways throughout the years. Some of us have withheld paying part or all of our taxes. Some of us, unsure as to the ramifications or efficacy of that avenue, have paid ours, but with unease.

As the perpetual war that began in 2001 continues with no end in sight, PJSN encourages all peacemakers to

re-examine how we contribute to this destruction through our tax dollars. Working with our friends at the National Peace Tax Fund, we are working to move forward legislation that would allow peacemakers and pacifists to designate our tax dollars away from military spending and toward humanitarian efforts.

Learn about how you can get involved in these efforts, and other ways to respond to the use of our tax dollars for war, at [www.PJSN.org](http://www.PJSN.org).



Statistics based on the 2018 national budget, taken from [www.warresisters.org/sites/default/files/fy2018piechart\\_color2.pdf](http://www.warresisters.org/sites/default/files/fy2018piechart_color2.pdf). The document also gives further breakdown of what is in each category above.



## Peace pins

Mennonite Mission Network invites you to wear the "I choose peace" pin to be reminded of God's call to peace and justice, and to spark conversation with others about peacemaking and the Prince of Peace.

Order your pin or necklace at [www.PJSN.org/ichoosepeace](http://www.PJSN.org/ichoosepeace).

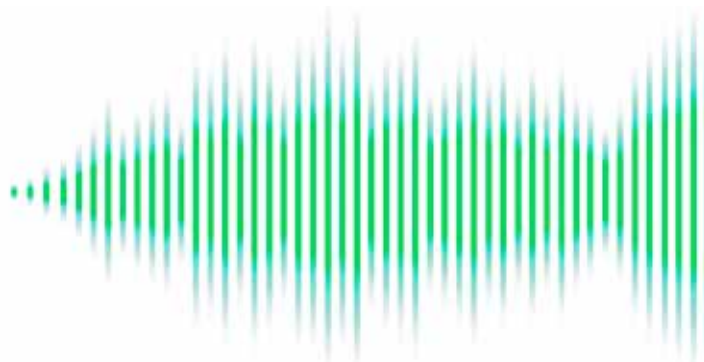


## DoveTales

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

## Are you interested in:

- Nonviolent direct action?
- Sanctuary church movement?
- Bystander intervention?
- Becoming part of God's mission in your community?
- The Doctrine of Discovery?
- How Mennonites can connect with college students and millennials?
- The intersection of race and church?
- How trauma affects us and what it means for peacemaking?

Learn about these topics and much more with the

### **Peace Lab podcast!**

These passionate conversations about peace happen in the Peace Lab.

Listen to all the episodes at [www.PJSN.org](http://www.PJSN.org)!