



PRESBYTERY OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE

Phil Leftwich, Executive Presbyter

Therese Howell, Stated Clerk

August 31, 2009

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

On World Communion Sunday, Christians around the world will gather to worship and share the bread and cup in remembrance and celebration of the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This Sunday is a time to bear witness to the truth that in Christ the dividing walls between us are torn down, and we are made one. In light of this good news, Jesus calls us to God's way of peace—not only to be lovers of peace but also to be makers of peace—as we seek to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.

On Sunday, October 4, 2009, churches of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee have the opportunity to join Christians around the world in celebrating World Communion Sunday. The theme of World Communion Sunday this year is, “Justice and Peace Shall Kiss Each Other,” reminding us that the work for justice and peace are inextricably linked. As Martin Luther King Jr. reminds us, “True peace is not merely the absence of tension, but it is the presence of justice.”

With the collection of this year's Peacemaking offering, you are given the opportunity to become a peacemaker right here in Middle Tennessee. You have probably already received information about this offering from the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program. If not, you can get the materials on-line at www.pcusa.org/peacemakingoffering.

A portion of the offering collected by local congregations goes to the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program to support projects such as our denomination's racial justice work, seed grants to Presbyteries for long-term peacemaking needs, and support of International Peacemakers who share their churches' concerns with Presbyterians in the U.S.

A quarter (25%) of the offering stays with the local church for peacemaking purposes chosen by the congregation itself. Within our Presbytery, there are a variety of ministries which can benefit from your offerings. Some of them are listed on the reverse side of this letter.

If your congregation has participated in this celebration and offering in the past, thank you. If not, I invite you to consider joining in this effort to witness to Christ's work of peace through us and among us. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

In peace,

Reverend Stacy Rector
Peacemaking Chairperson
Outreach Mission Unit

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Peacemaking Ministries in Middle Tennessee

Better Decisions

P.O. Box 120754

Nashville, TN 37212

Provides a one-on-one volunteer experience with an incarcerated women for 8 weeks through structured training and a curriculum

Families in Crisis

P.O. Box 621

McMinnville, TN 37110

A comprehensive shelter program for victims of domestic violence serving Warren, Grundy, Cannon, and Sequatchie counties.

Genesis House

P.O. Box 1180

Cookeville, TN 38503

Helps victims of domestic and sexual violence find safety and the healing needed to become independent of abuse while also educating the community on the issue.

Nashville Peace and Justice Center

4732 W. Longdale Drive

Nashville, TN 37211

A community-based coalition of organizations and individuals working to achieve a more just and peaceful society and providing education to social justice leaders.

Nations Ministry Center

P.O. Box 128154

Nashville, TN 37212

Provides needed services to refugee and immigrant populations such as ESL classes.

Reconciliation Prison Ministry

702 51st Avenue N

Nashville, TN 37209

Provides needed services to families of the incarcerated, including lodging during visits with their loved ones in prison.

The Tennessee Coalition to Abolish State Killing (TCASK)

P.O. Box 120552

Nashville, TN 37212

Seeks to honor life by abolishing the death penalty in Tennessee through education and advocacy

Urban Ministries Safehouse

P.O. Box 324

Clarksville, TN 37041

Provides shelter and safety to victims of domestic violence and abuse