



Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

On Earth Peace is delighted to share our 2019 report as you gather to do the work of ministry at your District Conference. **"Seeing Jesus"** is our 2019 theme and it represents a celebration of all the places we witness the work of Jesus and his ministry being carried out in the Church of the Brethren and beyond. From Oregon and Ohio to Nigeria and Palestine, we are working alongside Jesus-inspired leaders and communities for justice and peace.

Among our newest offerings is the **Congregational Peace Health Checkup** in which we invite you to reflect about the vitality of your congregation specifically focused around how Christ's teachings of peace, nonviolence, justice, and reconciliation take shape in your common life and your ministries. Through this process of reflection and discernment, we hope to strengthen the work and the connectedness of local congregations in these vital areas. Please contact Matt Guynn at MGuynn@OnEarthPeace.org to learn more about how this ministry might support the work taking place in your district.

We continue to experience growth and transformation through our **On Earth Peace Internship Program** that invites 18-24 year olds, college and graduate students of all ages to gain experience working for justice and peace. While many of our interns have been affiliated with Brethren institutions of higher education, we are attracting students from other backgrounds who are drawn to our work and the peace church heritage it inspires. Contact Marie Benner-Rhoades at MRhoades@OnEarthPeace.org to learn about this and other programs that are available for youth and young adults in your congregations and district.

OEP supports several Communities of Practice (CoP) that focus on specific issues of justice and peace like environmental stewardship, anti-racism, and conflict transformation within congregations and communities. Early this year, **the OEP Prison Justice Community of Practice was thrilled to support the "You Deserve Love" Project** based out of the Good Shepherd Church of the Brethren in Blacksburg, VA. Started by a four-year old who wanted to send messages of love and hope to individuals on death row, the project grew tremendously and even gathered recognition from professional media coverage, and received an overwhelming positive response from the prisoners.

Over the last year the board and staff of On Earth Peace have worked diligently to update **our values, vision, and mission statements**. Rooted in our anti-racism and anti-oppression commitments, we examined our historic and current program offerings and ministries, the local, national, and international work of our constituents and congregational partners, and the unique contributions On Earth Peace brings to the larger movement for justice and peace. The new statements are as follows:

Values:

- ❑ **Jesus-Centered Spirituality** - We follow Jesus into the work of justice and peace. We share in spiritual practices and develop faith resources to help undergird our programs.
- ❑ **Positive Peace** - We learn, teach, and practice dynamic forms of peacemaking which see conflict as an important tool to meet needs, address injustice, correct imbalances of power, and seek healing and reconciliation.
- ❑ **Anti-Racism/Anti-Oppression** - We commit to name and undo barriers to participation in our programs based on identity, and to work for full inclusion and equity for all who wish to join in our work. We commit to the long-term transformation of On Earth Peace, the church, and society.
- ❑ **Intergenerational Leadership** - We nurture peacemakers and leaders, and honor the wisdom, skill, and experience of all generations.
- ❑ **Beloved Community** - We commit to raising the levels of relationships until justice and peace prevail, and all people attain their full human potential.

Vision: A world in Beloved Community, liberated from oppression, violence, and war.

Mission: We develop and walk with leaders and communities who work for justice and peace.

We are excited about completing this important work and look forward to living into these values, vision, and mission together with you and the congregations and members in your district. We'd love to hear about how you already see them alive in the work of your district!

We hope that your district conference is a success and we value the continued financial support of the congregations that are represented. Last year, congregational giving accounted for over one-third of total funds raised for On Earth Peace. Email OEP@OnEarthPeace.org to learn more about congregational giving opportunities.

Peace & Blessings!