



ANNUAL 2016 REPORT

Witnessing to God's
peace rooted in
justice ~ working
together until it
comes. / Testificando
sobre la paz de Dios
enraizada en justicia
~ Trabajando hasta
que llegue.

WHEN DID WE SEE YOU IN PRISON?:

Breaking Social and Structural Injustice

And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?... Truly I tell you, just as you did for the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”

—Matthew 25:38-40

Annual Theme

In 2016 we continued our five-year focus *No Longer Strangers: Crossing Borders for Peacemaking*, and began a year-long focus on breaking social and structural injustice with the theme *When Did We See You in Prison?*.



Summer Conference attendees show support for incarcerated veterans. Photo by Dick Myers.

Advocacy

Statements & Resources

One way we work for peace rooted in justice is through our vocal condemnation of injustices in the world, standing with those most affected, and providing reflections, resources, and tools to those in our network who are also looking for ways to get involved and respond.

Statements

In 2016, we continued this commitment through organizational responses to injustices such as:

The water crisis in Flint, Michigan

“Water is life. And that is not only a liturgical statement. It is one of the most fundamental realities we share, as humans, with each other and with the created order. Working for peace rooted in justice in Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico and the United States, we call on all peace-loving people to pray for the health of the residents of Flint, and to commit to local action to require the government of Michigan to immediately provide a sustainable source of clean water and infrastructure to them. We also call

on all peace-loving people of North America to remember the water crises happening throughout our region with el Niño creating drought conditions in Puerto Rico, northern Mexico, and the US West and flooding in southeastern Mexico, with oil extraction in the tar sands region of northern Alberta in Canada polluting nearby waters - a region with profound spiritual and historic significance to Canada’s first peoples, and with the commodification of water which is closing access to clean water to many throughout our region and the world...”—from Statement on the Flint Water Crisis

Systemic oppression & police violence against people of color

“It is past time for an acknowledgment of the systemic forces at play: forces refusing to acknowledge that white lives are valued more than black lives, forces refusing to acknowledge gross

inequality imbedded in a system of white supremacy, forces refusing to acknowledge the colonial theft of land and abuse of bodies over centuries, forces refusing to acknowledge systemic mass incarceration of black bodies. We must raise our voices to speak out against these evils, condemn unjust disparities based on race, and demand accountability for the oppression, discrimination, and killings that disproportionately impact black lives. That

“**Thank you! New Millennium Church is glad BPFNA has done this!**

—Partner Congregation New Millennium Church responds to a statement released called *Once Again: A Statement in Solidarity with the Movement for Black Lives*

accountability must begin with our own organization and so we humbly acknowledge BPFNA ~ Bautistas por la Paz’s complicity in these structures of white supremacy and we publically commit to working to dismantle these structures in our midst. We have ignored black voices, adding hurt to hurt. We recognize and name this history and commit to move into a better future...”—from the Statement on Centering Black Lives

in Pursuit of Racial Justice (from our Centering Black Lives Working Group)

“Once again, and with heavy hearts, in light of the continued violence being perpetrated on Black people by state-sanctioned policing policies, the board members of BPFNA ~ Bautistas por la Paz feel compelled to speak out, to cry out in solidarity... At this moment in history, we are called as people of faith to work against racial injustice in all its forms. Specifically, we are called to condemn the epidemic of police violence against Black and Brown people in the United States. As members of BPFNA ~ Bautistas por la Paz, our calls for justice are rooted in the witness of Jesus Christ, and his message of liberation and reconciliation. We know from experience that following Jesus in the path of peace rooted in justice calls us to risk, to sacrifice and sometimes to make challenging choices in our daily lives. We embrace this reality. And

as an historically white organization, we strive to offer timely resources for our white members to learn and grow in an understanding of how they can be in solidarity with people of color...”—from *Once Again: A Statement in Solidarity with the Movement for Black Lives*

The results from the U.S. election

“BPFNA ~ *Bautistas por la Paz* will be a COMMUNITY OF RESISTANCE. We do not know what is coming, but we have every reason to believe that it will not be good news for those made poor, the imprisoned, and the oppressed. We will practice resistance, calling in particular on the expertise and guidance of those within our network who have long experience in living faithfully in the grip of oppressive power. Our existence as a four-nation network with partners around the world will be a key strength in this work.” —from *Resistance ~ Prayer ~ Love ~ Creation*

Resource Kits

We also continued our work of providing quality resources and ideas for action around various issues of concern facing our world. In 2016, we created resource kits around:

The Flint Water Crisis • North Carolina House Bill 2 and standing with the Transgender community • Gun Violence and standing in solidarity with Orlando • Centering black lives & further condemning state violence against black people • What you can do to fight against white nationalism, bigotry, and xenophobia



Supported Fair Trade

In 2016 we continued to run the Baptist Fair Trade Project to empower small farmers and educate congregations on economic justice issues.

Joined other advocacy initiatives

We signed on to a wide variety of national and international advocacy efforts such as restricting predatory lending, defending the rights of refugees, limiting nuclear weapons, defending family visitation rights in U.S. prisons and many more.

Acted locally for justice

In addition to providing resources and pastoral support to our members as they act locally, being based in North Carolina, we were able to act locally ourselves providing personal support to efforts to repeal the discriminatory HB2 bill as well as to the Charlotte Uprising that emerged following the shooting death of Keith Lamont Scott.

Networking

Connected peacemakers

Much work in 2016 went into connecting peacemakers at local, national and international levels to form networks of collaboration and support to strengthen their mutual work. We also connected churches and organizations seeking job candidates with those seeking employment. And, beyond our own grant-making programs, we helped many of our partners connect with other funders and were part of helping them create numerous successful grant applications for the work of peace rooted in justice.

Connected through members

In 2016 we launched a series of house parties to spread the word about our work in Nashville, TN; Rochester, NY; Charlotte, NC; Beverly, MA; and Toronto, ON. We plan to hold more in 2017. Contact us if you are interested in hosting a BPFNA house party in your city.

Gatherings

Crossing Borders as Young Leaders

BPFNA helped create a program called *Crossing Borders as Young Leaders*, a gathering of American and Cuban young adults in Cuba. This was held in conjunction with la *Fraternidad de Iglesias de Bautistas de Cuba* and the Alliance of Baptists.

CBF Peace Breakfast

In June we hosted our annual Peace Breakfast at the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship National Assembly. 2016's keynote speaker was Dr. Saundra D. Westervelt, author (with Kimberly J. Cook) of *Life after Death Row: Exonerees' Search for Community and Identity* which examines the post-release obstacles faced by 18 death row exonerees. Proceeds of the event supported Witness to Innocence project, the only national organization in the United States composed of and led by exonerated death row survivors and their family

GATHERINGS

CBF Peace Breakfast

“If living in prison is traumatic, add to that the trauma of being convicted for something you didn't do, being told you are going to be killed for something you didn't do, being kept in a cage for years on end for something you didn't do, and then, in some cases, being taken to the brink of death only to be snatched back in the nick of time and possibly dangled there again weeks or months later... all for something you didn't do. If incarceration is trauma, then death row exonerees experience trauma on steroids.” —Dr. Saundra Westervelt

members. The mission of WTI is to abolish the death penalty by empowering exonerated death row survivors and their loved ones to become effective leaders in the abolition movement.

Three Books & A Movie

Created a quarterly on-line Book and Movie club to encourage members to read/see and discuss “Three Books and a Movie” with justice-related themes.

Kate Campbell Concert

Held A Benefit Concert with Kate Campbell that supported us as well as Workers’ Dignity / Dignidad Obrera. Workers’ Dignity is a worker-led center organizing for economic justice and dignity for all! Attendees learned about their work developing solutions to wage theft and the systemic abuse of workers by building power through relationships with fellow low-wage workers and allies.

Christian Peace Circle

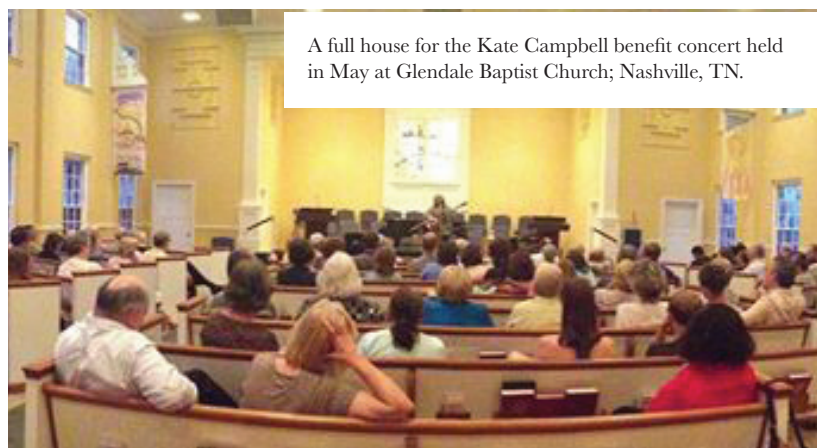
BPFNA staff helped to create the annual Christian Peace Circle retreat using the theme *Racism, Militarism, and Materialism: King’s Social Critique and the Power of Nonviolence*.



The Crossing Borders as Young Leaders delegation in Cuba.

Had a presence at other peace and justice gatherings

Had a presence at a variety of other events including the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, the Alliance of Baptists, United We Dream, and Revolutionary Love.



A full house for the Kate Campbell benefit concert held in May at Glendale Baptist Church; Nashville, TN.

SOA Watch

Several BPFNA members participated in the SOA Watch Border Convergence held at the US-Mexico border at Nogales. Executive Director LeDayne McLeese Polaski was a participant and was invited to speak at the interfaith worship service that was part of the event. (Photos by LeDayne McLeese Polaski.)



GATHERINGS

Summer Conference

“I need this booster shot each year to go back to live what I experience.”

“I love the relationships that have been built and the inspiration offered to fill my soul for the next year.”

“As a 22-time veteran, this is the best thing going for progressive Baptist Christians.”

“[I appreciate the] opportunities to learn what else is being done in a compassionate and positive way to address peace & justice issues.”

Summer Conference

We held a very successful annual conference, with the same focus as our annual theme *When Did We See You in Prison: Breaking Social and Structural Injustice* at Cheyney University in Cheyney, PA. Cheyney is the oldest historically Black institution of higher education in the US.



Canadian conference-goers change the lyrics of the National Anthem to ones more accurate. Photo by Dick Myers.



Jim Bennett, one of the worship leaders, playing during worship. Photo by Dick Myers.

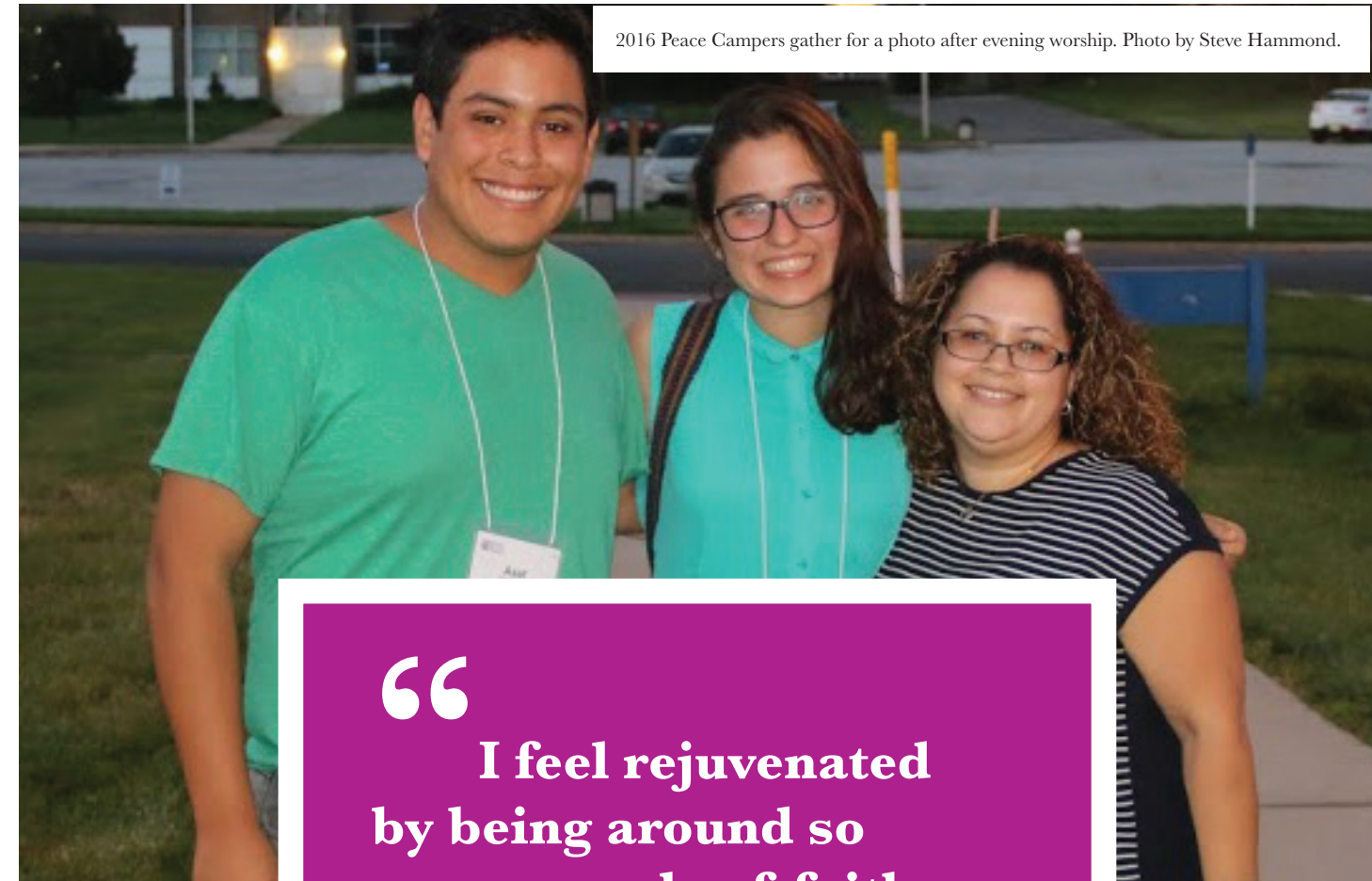
RESERVA LA FECHA / SAVE THE DATE

Jul 17-22, 2017
Campamento Mazahua /
Misión Mazahua
near Toluca, México

Our first Summer Conference held in Mexico will be a gathering focused on solidarity with and empowerment of the least of these.



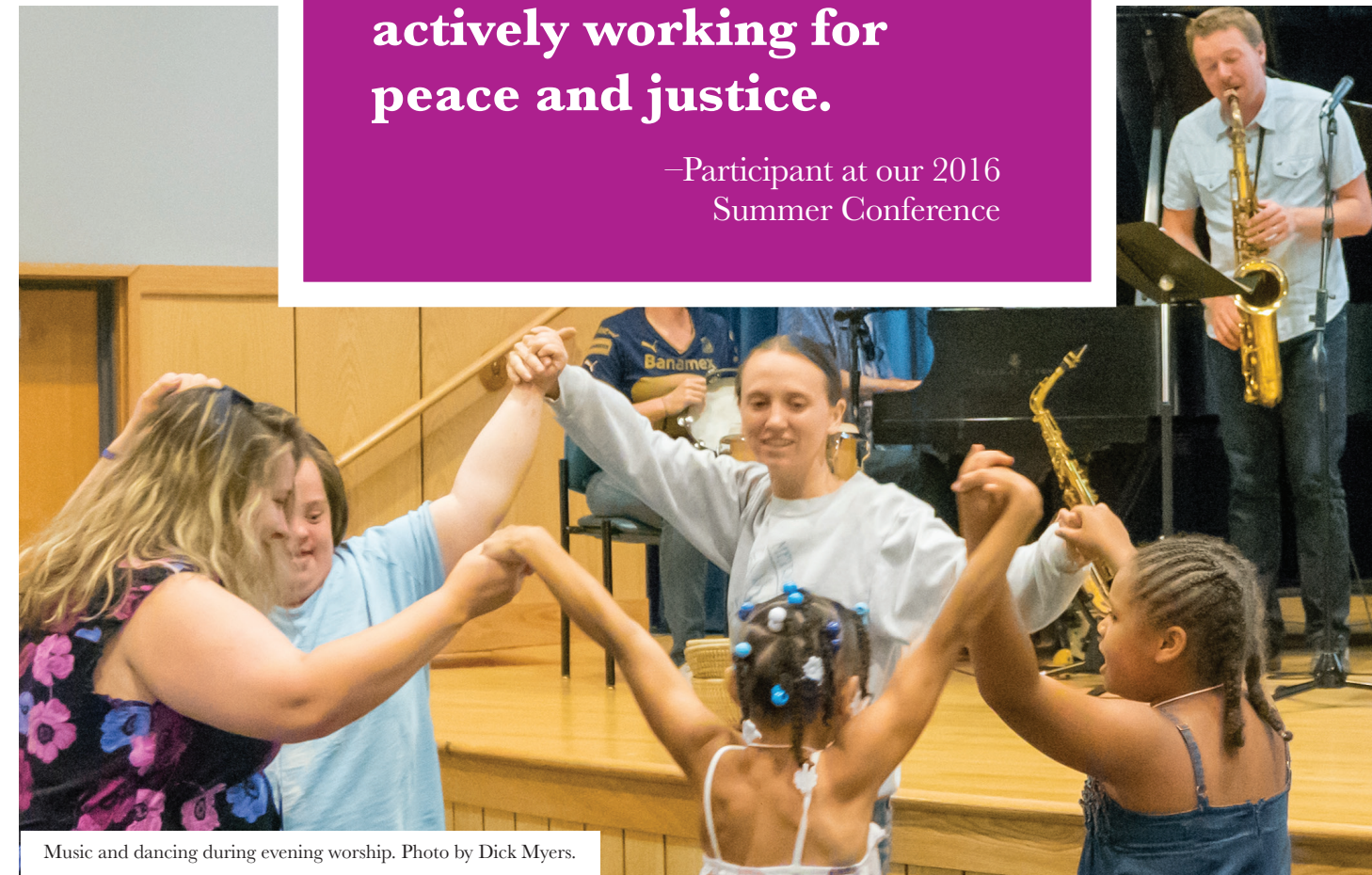
Rev. Dr. Emilie Townes speaks to conference attendees on Friday morning. Photo by Steve Hammond.



2016 Peace Campers gather for a photo after evening worship. Photo by Steve Hammond.

“
I feel rejuvenated
by being around so
many people of faith
actively working for
peace and justice.”

—Participant at our 2016
Summer Conference



Music and dancing during evening worship. Photo by Dick Myers.

EDUCATION

University Events

“I’ve already had several conversations that incorporated your training information [and we’ve been in conversation with students about how to unite our efforts].”

“For the first time, I can see clearly what I have to offer to the movement for social change.”

—From participants in the Social Change and Activism training at Graceland University

“Wow! This is very powerful! I can’t wait to share [your information] with my Senior Seminar!”

—Queens University professor

Education

Mayan Intercultural Seminary in Chiapas, Mexico (SIM)

In 2016 we continued our partnership with SIM by teaching an annual peacemaking course. This year the class focused on *Preaching, Telling Our Stories and Peacemaking* and was taught by former board President Amaury Tañón-Santos.

Hispanic Summer Program

In June we partnered with the Alliance of Baptists and Pullen Memorial Baptist Church to provide a class as part of the Hispanic Summer Program called *Breaking the Cycle: Love Your Enemy* taught by new board President Mayra Picos-Lee. At the request of the Hispanic Summer Program, we have also committed to our continuation of offering a justice-themed class every other year.

University Events

Graceland University

In March we offered training in *Social Change and Activism* at Graceland University in Lamoni, Iowa.

Queens University

We also provided consultation with a professor at Queens University of Charlotte who was teaching a course on forgiveness.



Mayra Picos-Lee and students in the 2016 Hispanic Summer Program. Photo by Mayra Picos-Lee.

“

“The support of BPFNA has been invaluable and has helped the HSP bring scholars who have taught courses with a very needed focus on peace making. Mayra was just a delight this year and as a pastoral counselor very helpful.”

—Director of the Hispanic Summer Program

Trainings

Conflict Transformation

Conflict Transformation (CT) goes beyond Conflict Resolution in that it seeks to address the underlying causes of conflict instead of simply seeking to find a harmonious compromise. In 2016 we:

Created a new version of our Conflict Transformation training called **Do Not Be Afraid: Changing the Narrative in the Midst of Racial Conflict**, that looks at Conflict Transformation through a racial justice lens. We held this full-day training in multiple locations throughout the year and have plans to continue to offer it throughout 2017.

Offered an **Introduction to Conflict Transformation** training for Asian American Baptist Church Leaders in Partnership with Partner Congregation North Shore Baptist Church and ABC of Metro Chicago.

Worked with long-time member Joe Henry to lead a two-day training for prison chaplains.

Other Trainings

We also held or helped facilitate other trainings. This year we:

Helped train the leaders of the Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries’ **Bold Conversations** conference.

Created a new training on **Trauma Awareness and Resilience** for inmates at Butner Federal Correctional Complex.

Sponsored partners in Trees of Peace Africa and Crossing Lines Africa to take part in an on-line course titled **Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resilience (STAR): Peace After Trauma**.



Participants of a Do Not Be Afraid training in Charlotte, NC. Photo by Allison Paksoy.

TRAININGS

“I had an email from the leader of our adult ministry who wants to set up a debrief and plan of action for next steps among the folks who attended the training Saturday. They also want to widen the circle to include others not at the training. One of our newest members sent me a Facebook message asking if he could start a social action committee on the heels of the ‘progressive discussion on race relations’ today. Grateful for your vulnerability, honesty, and courage. It’s contagious.”

—FBC Worcester pastor Brent Newberry on the Do Not Be Afraid training

“I finally understand two of the key leaders in my congregation.”

—Participant from the Intro to Conflict Transformation training

“I’ll be taking home the idea that even though I am broken, I can still be a masterpiece.”

—Participant in the Trauma Awareness and Resilience training

PCs

Partner Congregations

Strengthening the network of peacemaking Baptists & encouraging strategic alliances for mission between BPFNA ~ Bautistas por la Paz & local churches, the Partner Congregation program provides member churches with valuable networking opportunities and peacemaking resources.

“This is exceptionally, wonderfully helpful. We’ll be using a number of these pieces in worship this Sunday, and we’re grateful.”

–Partner Congregation pastor on using materials from our resource kits.

Partner Congregations

In 2016 we continued our work with congregations committed to peace rooted in justice. Called Partner Congregations, we gather, equip, and mobilize the churches in this program to advocate for peace.



Executive Director LeDayne McLeese Polaski and other faith leaders (including some Partner Congregation pastors) attend protests after the Keith Lamont Scott shooting in Charlotte, NC.

Resources

We compiled and created worship and education resources for churches to use for services around Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Weekend, Lent, Easter, Palm Sunday, Earth Day, Labor Day, Pentecost, and Mother’s Day as well as general resources on peace rooted in justice. We also created special resource packets to assist churches in understanding and responding to a variety of issues including: the massacre at the Pulse night club in Orlando; the water crises in Flint and throughout North America; the Movement for Black Lives; transgender rights; and welcoming refugees.

Trainings

We offered training events for Partner Congregations including Harmony Creek (Dayton, OH); University Baptist (Columbus, OH); Messiah Baptist (Brockton); Saint John’s Baptist (Charlotte); First Baptist (Jamaica Plain, MA); Old Cambridge Baptist (Cambridge, MA); and First Baptist (Worcester, MA).

Personal Connections

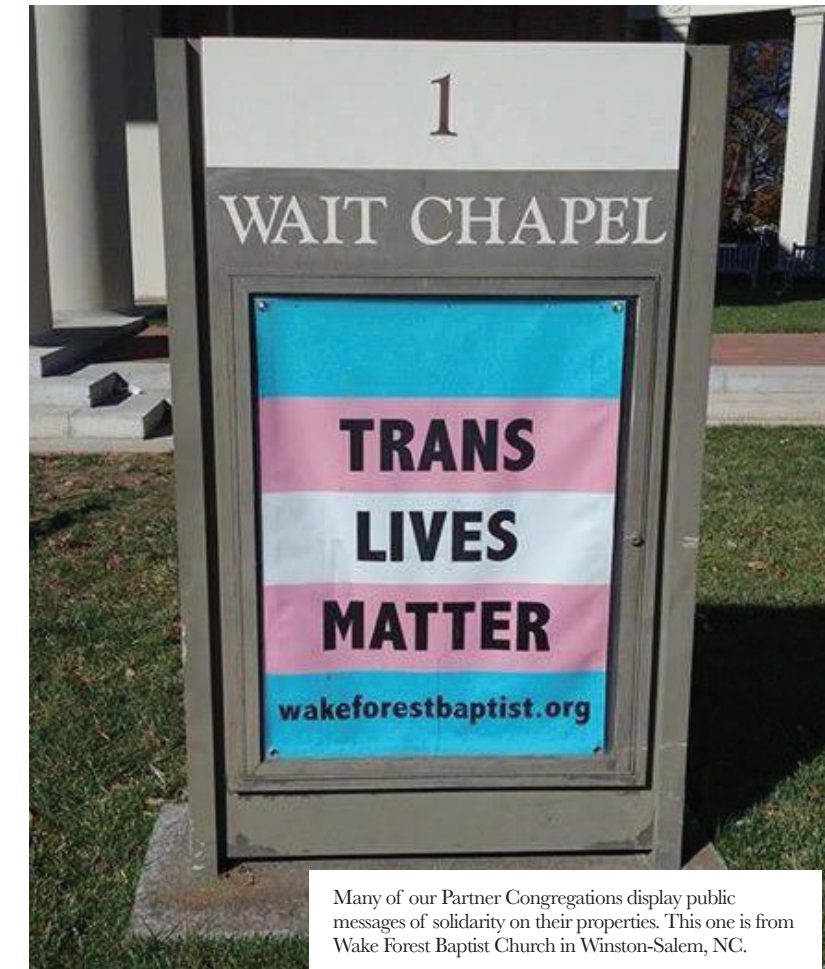
We were present in 24 of our congregations throughout the year for speaking events, trainings, and more.



Staff members of Oakhurst Baptist Church in Decatur, GA share messages of support for Muslims.



Rev. Ian Mevorach being arrested while standing up for Climate Justice. Ian is the pastor of Partner Congregation Common Street Spiritual Center in Natick, MA.



Many of our Partner Congregations display public messages of solidarity on their properties. This one is from Wake Forest Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, NC.

PUBLICATIONS

“I have been out of touch recently, so it was good to receive your beautifully done magazine. Congratulations on both publishing such a well-done magazine and recruiting so many young people into this movement.”

—Member commenting on Baptist Peacemaker

“If you’ve spent much time around toddlers, you know the ‘again! again!’ supplication. You finish reading a favorite book, or bouncing on the knee, or any number of assorted other forms of play, and your charge squeals an insistent request to continue. Again, and again, to the point where you have to devise some distraction in order to catch your breath. Because of a long and close association with George Williamson, many (though not all) of the stories in this memoir are familiar. But my response in reading is still ‘again! again!’”

—A portion of Ken Sehested’s review of Born in Sin, Upended in Grace

Publications

Model Ministries

We continued to publish our successful quarterly electronic newsletter to Partner Congregations called *Model Ministries*. This resource focuses on the peace and justice work being done by our Partner Congregations to inspire others to act.

Baptist Peacemaker

We also continued to publish our award-winning quarterly publication *Baptist Peacemaker*, that focuses on the peace and justice work being done by members and partners throughout the world.

Born in Sin, Upended in Grace

In 2016 we published the memoir of our Founding President George Williamson called *Born in Sin, Upended in Grace*. The memoir focuses on George’s life growing up on, what he calls, the wrong side of many social-moral issues and his journey to becoming an activist and advocate for social justice.

The Borders I Cross

We continued our series created in 2015 called *The Borders I Cross* that focuses on the many ways people in the BPFNA ~ Bautistas por la Paz network are crossing borders for peace.

10 Great Things to Give

We published our annual *10 Great Things to Give* electronic resource that features 10 (or more) gift giving ideas for lovers of peace and justice.



Photo from the *Borders I Cross* piece called “Standing with Standing Rock” by Rev. Stacey Simpson Duke.

Resource Collaboration

In 2016 we contributed an essay to the new Alliance of Baptists’ resource designed to help churches do anti-racism work.

Peace Funds

Gavel Memorial World Peace Fund

This small grant program continues to make possible a wide variety of transformative projects worldwide including:

A Trauma Healing peace conference

This peace conference brought together 30 Pokot and 30 Turkana widows, women who have lost husbands and sons to the on-going violence in the Rift Valley of Kenya. The conference was led by long-time BPFNA partner Boaz Keibarak and

was designed to help participants move from trauma to healing and to train them to effectively participate in advocating, cementing and embracing the newly-born peace in the area. Amazingly, on the third day of the gathering, an unexpected number of 400 people from both Turkana and Pokot tribes arrived to celebrate a Women’s Peace and Reconciliation

Day! Boaz adapted his plans for the day to adjust to the unexpected crowd and led a Bible study on the story of children of Israel journeying from Egypt to Canaan, reminding the crowd that the Biblical journey was much like the journey they wanted to make from trauma to healing. He challenged them to identify their challenges and ways to address those challenges for the realization of sustainable peace. Those gathered named Apology, Acceptance, Forgiveness, Unity, Love, Cohesion, a joint trade market, and a sports peace program as the ways forward in their own healing journey.

Older BPFNA publications continue to be relevant and valuable:

“

“We printed up 100 copies of your flyer ‘Queer and Faithful?’ and have put them out with our display at the NC Gay and Lesbian Film Festival this week. Thanks! It’s an excellent resource!”

—Gordon Whitaker, member of Watts Street Baptist in Durham, NC

Red Create: Música y arte litúrgico

en red: (Red Create: Project for the compilation of liturgical and musical resources.)

Our funds supported a gathering in Sao Leopoldo, Brazil held by Red Create to create ecumenical resources from Latin America to accompany the celebrations surrounding the



Participants from the Trauma Healing peace conference.

PEACE FUNDS

“God has remembered women of Pokot and Turkana, I am so happy for this initiative, thank you so much for considering women in this journey of healing and peace, we have not met since we came into this soil, few of us have been participating in peace meeting led by majority men, but today is an amazing day we have come together and we are included for peace, we promise to embrace peace and unity.”

—Participant in the Trauma Healing peace conference

“MOSAIC allowed me to respect other religions as well as understand their background and theology. It has allowed me to express my beliefs and myself in ways that I could never express myself in. MOSAIC has given me the privilege to defend other faiths in other places so that people do not have to deal with the ignorance of others.”

—Garden State MOSAIC participant

“I wanted to make sure that you and the people from the William Peace Foundation Grant know how much of a difference learning more Spanish has meant to my work. Thank you seems inadequate but that and Muchas Gracias are all the words I have.”

—Recipient of a Williamson Fund grant (One Library at a Time)

500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. Grace and justice were the themes used by the group in creating the prayers, affirmations of faith, litanies, selection of biblical texts and songs. The resources also connect issues that present challenges to churches, such as climate justice, human rights, forced migration and human trafficking, among others. Board member Ximena Ulloa Montemayor was a participant in the gathering.



Participants from the Trauma Healing peace conference singing for peace.

Other

The Gavel Fund also assisted with these projects:

Academia de Formación Espiritual, Puerto Rico: Espiritualidad de Esperanza en Medio de la Crisis (The Academy of Spiritual Formation in Puerto Rico sponsoring a conference with the theme Spirituality of Hope at a Time of Crisis).

BorderLinks and **Mariposas Sin Fronteras**: Programa de Visitacion Amig@as de las Mariposas: Reclutamiento y Entrenamientos de Voluntari@s. (Borderlinks and Butterflies Without Borders: Training a core group of volunteers to be in relationship with and visit LGBTQI Immigrants in Arizona detention centers).

Crossing Lines: Combatting Electoral Violence through Conflict Transformation Trainings for Peaceful Elections in Uganda.

Global Baptist Peace Conference: Scholarships for the next worldwide gathering which will be held in Colombia.

Iglesia Bautista Jerusalén: Visitas para la formacion en la paz con justicia en una iglesia de Chiapas, Mexico (Jerusalem Baptist Church of Mexico City -- Visits for peace and justice building in the community. Training of leaders of a local church in Chiapas, Mexico in peace building around specific issues of conflict in the local community).

Iglesias por la Paz: Acompañamiento pastoral a víctimas de violencia en México a familiares de desaparecidos y/o asesinados (Churches for Peace: Pastoral accompaniment to family members of victims of violence who have been murdered or disappeared in Mexico).

Jitokeze Wamama Wafrika: Annual Jitokeze Friendship and Learning Tour

PAP-NET: Training of Conflict Transformation Trainers for Children Living in the Streets.

Seminario Evangélico de Puerto Rico: Iniciativa Seminario Verde (Eco-theological Initiative of the Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico: Training for pastors/ministers and lay leaders in the development of a theology of care for all creation).

Together in Christ: Peace & Reconciliation Project for Sierra Leonean Immigrants in the US.

Williamson Peace Action Fund

The Williamson Peace Action Fund supports the work of gathering, equipping, and mobilizing that emerges from our members and/or the small, grassroots, local organizations of which they are a part. In 2016 it provided grants to:

Garden State MOSAIC: We gathered with teenagers ten times this school year to learn about each other's faiths/belief systems, develop leadership skills and serve the community. 30 teens from nine different faiths/belief systems (Sikh, Jain, Hindu, Humanist, Unitarian Universalist, Jewish, Greek Orthodox, Roman Catholic, atheist) are involved this year.

One Library at a Time to allow their director to take Spanish classes.

Asian Baptists of Metro Chicago for a training in Conflict Transformation.

Two faculty members of the **Mayan Intercultural Seminary (SIM)** to work toward Masters degrees.

An event we're co-sponsoring from October 19-22, 2017 called **Remembering Muted Voices: Conscience, Dissent, Resistance, and Civil Liberties in World War I through Today at the World War I Museum**.



Red Create gathering

Finances

Generous contributions from members, congregations, and others have made possible all the work you see on these pages. We have done significant work in the past year to increase giving and reduce expenses so that we can expand our work for peace rooted in justice throughout North America and around the world.

2016 was a good year financially. We met both projected income and projected contribution projections.

Total Income: \$397,154.72

(Includes all income including Summer Conference receipts, resource sales, grants, etc.)

Projected Income: \$396,199

Total Contributions: \$219,000

Projected Contributions: \$218,886

Except for 2015 when we had the \$40,000 matching grant, this was our best income year since 2010 (the last time we had a significant matching grant)!

This is worth celebrating! Thank YOU for your faithful giving.



Conflict Transformation training in Uganda



Amaury and class at SIM



Norberto & Ximena, Summer Conference



Members of a group we've supported through the Gavel Fund march for justice in Mexico.

Looking Ahead

Here are just a few of the highlights coming in 2017:

We'll be introducing a new membership structure that is more inclusive and recognizes the variety of ways people contribute to our work.

We'll host our first-ever Summer Conference in Mexico *When Did We See You Naked: Clothing Each Other in Hope* from July 17-22 and use this as an opportunity to go deeper in cross-cultural communication and understanding.

With the help of our Spanish Resource Manager, Hortensia Azucena Picos-Lee, we will launch a Spanish version of our website to live further into our four-nation identity.

We'll be debuting *Colour-coded: Decolonising Hearts, Minds and Spirits*, a version of our conflict transformation for anti-racism work relevant for the Canadian context in April 2017 in Toronto, with plans to offer another event in Vancouver later in the year.

We'll continue our *Three Books and a Movie* series and our popular *Borders I Cross* essay series with a focus on the theme of cultural awareness/competency in order to ensure we are hearing *all* voices in our midst and working together to dismantle oppressive structures and create true justice for all.



BPFNA board members meeting in May at Glendale Baptist Church in Nashville, TN. This board meeting set a new record as all members were able to be in attendance!



Participants in the 2016 Revolutionary Love conference in New York, NY share a message of love with the rest of the world.

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