

PROCLAIM THE PEACE OF CHRIST

“So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near.”
—Ephesians 2:14-17

The letter to the Ephesians tells us that Jesus came to proclaim a universal peace. While the earthly ministry of Jesus occurred in a specific age and place, the peace he shared is limited by neither time nor geography. As followers of Christ, our call to work for peace begins in our own neighborhoods and extends to the ends of the earth. It is a demanding call, but one that Presbyterians at all levels of the church are seeking to follow.

The Peace & Global Witness Offering supports the holistic and wide-ranging witness of the whole church.

At the national level, this witness means supporting those working to heal the divisions in violent contexts like South Sudan. It means bringing leaders together who have made a profound witness for peace around the world and deploying them to congregations like yours. It means creating materials that equip congregations to deal with important issues—from disagreements between members of session to bullying at schools to gun violence in our communities. And it means using our seat at the United Nations table to speak up for the vulnerable around the world. This Offering strengthens the collaboration of the Peacemaking Program and the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations with the peace work of global partners through World Mission.

Yet the Offering is as much about your local congregation living out a commitment to peacemaking and as it is proclaiming Christ’s peace. Twenty-five percent of the Offering stays in your congregation and 25% is retained by your mid council, enabling you the freedom to provide support where you need it the most. It has meant two pastors in Texas starting an organization that seeks civility in political discourse. It has meant supporting the work of a mission co-worker in finding reconciliation in difficult international contexts. It has meant scholarships for students recognized as peacemakers, resettlement of refugees, and support for shelters where those who are abused may find refuge.

This Offering sustains our witness in many forms and at all levels of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), but all are bound together in Christ. Together they are a living proclamation of the peace we know in Christ, who puts an end to hostility and speaks peace to all, near and far.

QUICK FACTS

- The Peace & Global Witness Offering builds on the Presbyterian commitment to peacemaking established in 1980.
- World Communion Sunday (October 1) is the most common Sunday for receiving the Offering, but many congregations promote the Offering throughout A Season of Peace.
- Twenty-five percent of the Offering stays with local congregations, and 25% with mid councils. See page 3 for examples of how others have used their retained funds.