

Lutheran Peace Fellowship

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Dear Central friend of peacemaking,

Lutheran Peace Fellowship held four conference calls in recent weeks with LPF leaders in every part of the country. The purpose was, first of all, to discuss the issues we care about: gun violence, militarism, conflicts around the globe, programs serving “the least of these”.... Second, we sought to examine and refine how LPF might best shape our program for 2013 to confront these challenges more effectively. Third, we discussed how we might make the most of LPF’s **national gathering** this summer. The results are summarized in greater detail in a new resource – entitled a “New Vision of Peacemaking” – that came out of our conference calls and conversations. Here are some highlights:

- ♦ To place a new emphasis on our **core focus**: to confront violence and war, militarism and injustice; and to share the alternative Jesus taught – the biblical vision of *Shalom*, of active nonviolence.
- ♦ To support LPF members in taking **effective action** on today’s pressing issues – gun control, the Middle East, soaring military budgets, veterans’ issues, violence in the media, conscientious objection. . . .
- ♦ To do more to share LPF’s most effective **activities and resources** which combine both of these features of our vision: core focus and concrete action. We also felt that this is an opportune time to invite LPF members’ congregations to offer such activities in adult and youth forums.

We also noted that in some cases, there are relatively **few Lutheran voices** lifting up these issues and offering advocacy opportunities and resources. LPF re-committed to changing that. Lutheran congregations, groups, and leaders really **can** be a beacon of support for peace with justice. Here are four ways you can help:

♦ By sharing “A New Vision for Peacemaking,” LPF blog postings, and other resources. They’re all on LPF’s expanded and simplified **website**, making it easy to print or email. We’ll have hard copies available after services at Central and elsewhere for several weeks. ♦ By making sure someone from Central can attend the LPF **National Gathering** this summer (perhaps you?). ♦ By **voting** for new LPF board members. ♦ And by **supporting LPF** financially (ask for an envelope, and if you are a Thrivent member, please consider designating LPF in Thrivent’s ‘Choice Dollars’ program).

Thank you for your peacemaking commitment and activity! Thank you for your support for LPF!

A version of this letter was signed by the following LPF leaders (most of whom were on one of our conference calls) for sharing with LPF members around the country:

Northwest

Rev. Bill Anderson,
Alice McCain, Marcia
Olson, Bruce Radtke, Rev.
Cindy Salo, Rev. John and
Mary Schramm, Rev. Paul
Stone, Glen Gersmehl

Midwest

Alan Bostleman, Rev.
Lowell Ehrdahl, Rev. Jerry
Folk, Jim Hart, Charles P.
Lutz, Judith Stoutland,
Rev. Les Weber, and
Rev. Henry Zorn

East

Rev. Dr. Kathy Denton-
Borhaug, Janet Larson,
Jean and Dan Martensen,
Rev. John and Erma Stein-
bruck, Bobbie and John
Stewart, Lily Wu

West

Rev. Paul Moehlman,
Gerald Iversen, Rev.
Jerry Pedersen

Southwest, South

Susan Ives,
Rev. Anne Morawski

Southeast

Judy Occhetti Klohr,
and Leo Klohr,
Sue Woodling