



Peace Discernment Webinar

Presbyterian Peacemaking Program

Sunday, January 6 – 5PM (EST)

Introduction to the Webinar

- Thank you for using this technology with us.
- The webinar should last one hour.
- This PowerPoint presentation will be sent to you by email.
- Please save all comments and questions until the end. Jot them down. We will save time for them then.
- Please share your name when you speak so we know who is speaking.
- Refrain from speaking over anyone. It can make it very hard to hear.
- If you have any trouble with the webinar, please stay on the call and simply listen to the conversation.
- Be patient if there are problems. We'll try to improve the experience for next time.



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Webinar Outline – What we'll cover tonight:

- Introduction to the PC(USA) Peace Discernment Process
- “Encountering the Gospel of Peace Anew” Interim Report to 220th GA (2012)
- Engaging Presbyterians in the Conversation
- 3 Formats for Peace Discernment Conversations
- Facilitating a Peace Discernment Conversation
- Components of a Peace Discernment Conversation
- Reporting Back from your Peace Discernment Conversation
- The Peace Discernment Process Facilitator’s Guide
- Next Steps in the Churchwide Peace Discernment Process



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Introduction to the PC(USA) Peace Discernment Process

- Initiated by 219th GA (2010) in response to 8 presbytery overtures
- Called for a broadly participatory discernment process to:
 - (1) Seek clarity as to God's call to the church to embrace nonviolence as its fundamental response to the challenges of violence, terror, and war; and
 - (2) Identify, explore, and nurture new approaches to active peacemaking and nonviolence, reporting to the 221st General Assembly (2014) with recommendations for policy and action.
- Created a Peace Discernment Steering Team to design & guide the process



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“Encountering the Gospel of Peace Anew: An Invitation to Discernment & Witness”

- Interim Report of the Peace Discernment Steering Team to 220th GA
- An invitation to the whole PC(USA) to participate in a time of discernment, looking at peacemaking and nonviolence in the 21st century.
- Provides background for peace discernment conversations
- Poses 20 Questions for Reflection/Discernment



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“Encountering the Gospel of Peace Anew: An Invitation to Discernment & Witness”

OUTLINE

- Introduction
- A Process of Discernment
- The Current Position of the Church
- Jesus, the Early Church, and Nonviolence: Recovering a Lost Legacy
- The Challenges of Violence, Terrorism, and War
- Living in a Culture of Violence and Fear (Structural Violence & Oppression)
- New Directions for Peacemaking: Nonviolent Action, Conflict Transformation, and Reconciliation
- Discerning God’s Call to Presbyterian Peacemakers in the 21st Century
- Selected Resources for Further Study



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What do we mean by “Discernment?”

- Not just another “study”
- Discernment involves slowing down and listening together for God’s voice speaking in our midst.
- Through discernment, we seek wisdom, clarity, and insight as to what God is calling us to be and do, here and now.
- In discernment, we try to see the world through God’s eyes and align our words and actions with God’s will.



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Engaging Presbyterians in the Conversation

- We want to engage a broad cross-section of the PC(USA)
- Churches that have a history of involvement in peacemaking
- Churches that may be new to peacemaking
- Women and men, youth and young adults, different racial/ethnic groups, liberals and conservatives
- Individuals who have served in the military and those who have not
- Campus ministers, faculty, and students at Presbyterian-related colleges
- Presbyterian Seminaries
- Presbyteries



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3 Formats for Peace Discernment Conversations

- Option 1: 4-hour Retreat
- Option 2: 4-Week Sunday School Series (Each session is 1 hour long)
- Option 3: 5-week Intensive Series (Each session is 2 hours long)



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Facilitating a Peace Discernment Conversation

- Assemble a group of 8-10 people (if more, divide into smaller groups)

It could be a never-before-assembled group, or an already established group such as an Adult Sunday School Class, a Women's Group, a Men's Group, a Youth or Young Adult Group, the Session and/or Deacons

- Select a format & schedule with place, date(s), and time
- Secure commitments from participants
- Make sure you have a scribe in each small group who will take notes on the conversation



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Facilitating a Peace Discernment Conversation

BEFORE THE FIRST SESSION

- Have participants read the Peace Discernment Interim Report “Encountering the Gospel of Peace Anew: An Invitation to Discernment and Witness” BEFORE THE FIRST SESSION. It can be read on-line or downloaded and printed at www.pcusa.org/peace-discernment
- Download the Peace Discernment Process Facilitator’s Guide for your own use from the same webpage



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Facilitating a Peace Discernment Conversation

BEFORE THE FIRST SESSION

- Make copies from the Facilitator's Guide of:
 - "Thoughts on 'Discernment'" (page 8)
 - "How To Do Discernment" (page 9)
 - "Seeking to Be Faithful Together" (page 14)
 - "Participant Response Form" (pages 15-16)



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Components of a Peace Discernment Conversation

- Opening Prayer (pages 18-22)
- Individual Discernment (pages 6 & 9)
- Communal Discernment using Mutual Invitation (pages 6 & 9)
- Engaging the Document (page 7)
- Closing Prayer (pages 18-22)



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The Peace Discernment Process Facilitator's Guide

is available for free download at
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Reporting Back – We Need Your Input

- Participant Response Forms (see www.pcusa.org/peace-discernment)
- Facilitator/Scribe Response Form (see www.pcusa.org/peace-discernment)
- Notes from your Peace Discernment Conversations

Email the above as attachments to: ACSWP@pcusa.org

OR send them by mail to:

Presbyterian Peacemaking Program, Presbyterian Church (USA)

100 Witherspoon Street, Louisville, KY 40202

BY MAY 31, 2013



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Next Steps in the Church-wide Peace Discernment Process

- Nov. 2012-May 2013 – Peace Discernment Conversations take place in presbyteries, congregations, and colleges, and reports are sent in.
- April-Nov. 2013 -- The Peace Discernment Steering Team analyzes and distills input from presbyteries, churches, colleges, and individuals, incorporating it into a Report and Recommendations to the 221st GA (2014)
- Jan. 2014 -- The Report and Recommendations are submitted to ACSWP for approval.
- June 2014 -- The 221st GA (2014) is asked to receive the Report and Recommendations for a two-year period of study.
- June 2016 -- The 222nd GA (2016) takes final action.



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Time for Questions

Thank you for joining us tonight!

If you have further questions or concerns,

please contact Roger Scott Powers

at PQRS@verizon.net