



Newsletter

'New Normal'
Peace Church Living

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Racism
An Urgent Concern



Photo: pixabay

Called to Shape a Different 'New Normal'

Peace Church Living and a Covid-19 World

Over the past years, there has been a noticeable increase in awareness of environmental issues, social and economic justice, democracy, and peacebuilding in the public eye and civil society groups across the globe. Unfortunately, this increased awareness has stood in contrast to the norm: denial of imminent ecological catastrophe, growing social and economic injustice in Europe and other parts of the world, responding to migration by sealing off borders, growing populist tendencies reinforced by fake news.

Then came Covid-19. It has sharpened existing healthcare and economic inequalities. And according to Swedish sociologist Göran Therborn, it has brought 'ferocious discrimination within as well as between classes, between men and women, generations and ethnic groups ... [and accelerated the] convergence of the Northern and the

Southern middle classes on the bleak path of inequality'.

The coronavirus is a global challenge. Today, awareness seems to be growing not only among activists but society at large: awareness of how interdependent we as humanity are in the face of this 'virus without borders'; how fragile we are as individuals and as States, and that it is not weapons that will save us; how such issues are interlinked, and that we need to add others, like equitable and efficient global healthcare, to the list; of how much we need, at regional and global levels, a truly sustainable and just economy.

However, the risk for all of us is that when the acute danger of the coronavirus seems to have eased, we will go back to former routines or seek to make up for what we have 'missed', that it will be 'business as usual'.

In a reflection on the pandemic from late March, the co-president of Pax Christi International, Msgr. Marc Stenger warned: 'If this crisis does not lead us to an in-depth examination of conscience on the respect of each other, on the implementation of relations at all levels, based not on force but on dialogue and nonviolence, it will not push us to something new.'

'#MPNN – Make Peace the New Normal' was how the International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR), a founding member of Church and Peace, formulated a call to such a process, with a global day of action in May. The 'new normal' which IFOR proposes means *living compassion* by prioritizing the protection of poor and marginalized people, *accountability* by protecting civil liberties and human rights, and *change* by using the momentum of this global crisis to shift

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Church and Peace

The European ecumenical network of peace churches, and peace-church oriented congregations, communities and service agencies

Editorial team:

Lydia Funck, General Secretary, and
Terri Miller, Individual Member

Church and Peace International Office

Mittelstraße 4, D-34474 Diemelstadt-Wethen
Tel: +49 5694 9905506, Fax: +49 5694 1532
IntlOffice@church-and-peace.org
www.church-and-peace.org

Translation and proofreading:

Terri Miller

Layout: Benji Wiebe, mennox.de

Production: Marion Wiebe, mennox.de/it

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Relying on Solidarity

2020 will undoubtedly go down in history. A year in which crises, disease, and disasters around the world have inexorably brought abuses and injustice into the public eye. Loneliness and a lack of social contact, the challenges of living even more closely together as a family and of remote schooling at home, or even existential fears – all hit hard and continue to do so. It's not so easy not to lose hope in the face of all this.

What also has happened, however: Many people have become conscious of how vulnerable we are and how much we rely on solidarity. Local projects have come into being. People have found new ways to be in contact with each other. New priorities have been set.

We too are forced to reflect anew. In this newsletter you will read about

our search for new paths and ideas of how to shape a new normal. About necessary conversations concerning the signs of the times, about experiences in community life, about our involvement in racism and steps being taken to overcome it. You will also get to know the members who joined the network at the AGM 2020.

Happy reading! Suggestions and feedback are very welcome.

With best wishes,

Lydia Funck

*Called to Shape a Different
'New Normal'*

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resources to meet human needs and foster a culture of nonviolence and peace.

What does a 'new normal' mean for Church and Peace? Theologically, in terms of our relationships to each other, the issues we focus on, the actions we take?

For Church and Peace, Europe-wide exchange at conferences and meetings is central, indeed indispensable for the network's vitality. Although the virtual 2020 Annual General Meeting enabled us to take care of association business, it also made clear how much personal encounter and mutual encouragement were lacking with the digital format. Therefore, we also are exploring other ways of relating to each other and living prophetically as a network, for example through a new dialogue process

'Recognising the Signs of the Times' (pp. 9).

In June, Church and Peace signed 'The path of nonviolence toward a *Laudato Si* future', an appeal to Pope Francis by Pax Christi's Catholic Nonviolence Initiative, which states: 'Response to the pandemic requires a fundamental shift from the "unjust normal" of systemic and structural violence across the globe ... Active nonviolence – a spirituality, a way of life and a program of societal action – is key to this global shift ... The universal ethic of nonviolence can shape a new, more just "normal"'

Individuals and communities in the Church and Peace network are, like many others, confused and searching for a path through and beyond the coronavirus pandemic. As peace churches, we are called to help shape with unflinching commitment this necessary shift –

Further Reading

- Göran Therborn, 'Dreams and Nightmares of the World's Middle Classes', <https://t1p.de/4ng8>
- Msgr. Marc Stenger, 'In Times of Pandemic', <https://t1p.de/6sne>
- Pax Christi International, 'The Path of Nonviolence toward a *Laudato Si* Future', <https://t1p.de/f3w7>

already existent and yet emergent – towards a 'new normal' rooted in the ethic of nonviolence.

Antje Heider-Rottwilm
Church and Peace chair



Photo: Church and Peace

Church and Peace AGM 2020 participants

Living Lockdown as a Community

Margalida Reus, leader of the St. Antoine group of the Arche Community of Lanza del Vasto, a Church and Peace member, looks back on the first month of living in lockdown as a community of 50 people, and ahead to what might be emerging as new hope.

The first week was extremely difficult. We had to deal with our different feelings about the situation – each person's fears were expressed in very different ways, we had to set fairly strict [physical distancing] norms which fractured our community's ways of doing things. For about ten days we struggled, looking for the framework best adapted to our situation. During that time, I often dreamed of living this lockdown outside of the community, of having only to manage my family's life, and I believe that I was not the only one to do so.

Gradually things calmed down.

I proposed to make this lockdown crossing together as a community. We were being asked to make a choice – to choose to accept the situation, to live it in

community, with its advantages and disadvantages, with the group that was the community at this time. To give the best of ourselves in this situation, in every moment of our life together.

For me, this choice is a spiritual act by which each of us stops positioning ourselves as a victim and becomes an actor. We could make this time a time of transformation and growth, if we gave ourselves the means to do so. We could root ourselves in trust daily, in the Spirit who guides and accompanies us. And we could live this time of lockdown as an apprenticeship, sharing the tools we each have, so that we would come out stronger and better equipped.

Now, the community aims to make space to let emerge what this situation might have to say about

our mission and community vocation, to give ourselves the space to think together so that we can move forward together.

On a personal level, I

experienced a kind of inner emptiness. Despite opening my life daily to the Spirit, there was something different. Perhaps stupefaction at what we are facing, where so many things are at stake,

'We could live this time of lockdown as an apprenticeship, sharing the tools we each have, so that we would come out of it stronger and better equipped.'



and I feel more than ever our vulnerability.

I oscillate between horror and hope. Horror at what is being put in place at the societal level, perhaps irreversibly. Control has become normalised, our society increasingly impoverished, subjugated by fear and the need for security.

And hope, because we are in a collective awareness to an extent never experienced before. I hope that this will bear fruit and we will not fall back into the old ways as we did after the crisis of 2008. I hope the new is here.

Margalida Reus

Racism – An Urgent Concern for Peace Churches

On 1 September, the Britain and Ireland region of Church and Peace hosted an online event to discuss the Black Lives Matter movement, and why racism must become a priority for peace churches and peace groups. Over forty participants and speakers – Church and Peace members and friends from the UK, Belgium, Germany, Russia, and Switzerland – joined the conversation.

The evening presented us with challenges and provided ideas for possible next steps. Both Sharon Prentis, the Intercultural Mission Enabler in the Church of England in Birmingham, and Davorka Lovrekovic, former General Secretary of Church and Peace, told us that we must be 'intentional' in our solidarity. We have to take action, seek out examples of injustice, be proactive, listen to voices which might be saying things we find uncomfortable.

Natasha Zhuravenkova, staff member at Friends House Moscow, shared the complexities of the situation in the Russian Federation. For people who are visibly not ethnic Russian, it is difficult to feel safe – there are groups with very diverse views which can make the lives of minorities dangerous.

For Rosemary Crawley, 'one of a tiny minority of black Quakers in the UK', there can be no justice or peace when black people still can't breathe. She identified three aspects of racism which need to be addressed – the daily micro-aggressions of racist behaviour, systemic institutionalised racism, and the racism inherent within the causes of climate change and the global responses to it.

Isabelle Eliat-Serck, a Roman Catholic from Brussels who describes her life as a 'multi-cultural adventure', gave examples from daily life which make racism visible, and quoted a refugee who said plainly: 'We are fed up with charity – we want people to appreciate us for what we are.' She reminded us to commit ourselves to genuine equality and, like Jesus, to be hosted as well as being hosts.

For Hansuli Gerber, who is part of the Swiss Anabaptist Forum for Peace and Justice, racism is a priority for peace churches and peace groups because it is intimately related to colonialism, slavery, and capitalism; there is a widespread assumption to be overcome that white people should naturally have privilege; and churches must work towards just and inclusive communities.

In her final word Sharon reminded us that countering racism and making it a priority is about 'inhabiting the message'. Even though we gravitate towards those like ourselves, we are called to inhabit the zone of discomfort, disease. When we move out of our comfort zone, we meet God in other people.

Following the discussion, many participants, including the main contributors, hoped that Church and Peace will continue working on this issue, not just in Britain and Ireland but across the whole network.

Barbara Forbes

Church and Peace Board member

*This is an abridged version of the full report to be found at:
<https://www.church-and-peace.org/en/regional-conferences/>*

Participants at the online event



Photo: Church and Peace

AGM 2020

Meet the Members

At its first-ever virtual AGM on 20 June 2020, Church and Peace welcomed two groups and three individuals as new members.



Asylum and Refugee Network - QARN

Quaker Asylum and Refugee Network (QARN)

The Quaker Asylum and Refugee Network was welcomed as corporate member.

QARN was founded in 2006 and consists of about 110 individual Quakers across Britain Yearly Meeting (BYM). We aim to work to change the way that refugees and asylum seekers – whether recognized under the UN Convention on the Status of Refugees or not – are treated. As a central part of our Quaker witness, we have produced a series of leaflets covering different aspects of our concern (hostile environment, use of language, immigration detention, removals and deportation, the extortionate renewal fees demanded by the Home Office) in order to help BYM to work effectively for justice and

compassion in our asylum and immigration system.

QARN is represented on national networks in the UK such as Detention Forum and Churches Refugee Network, and has recently accepted the invitation to join the council of Rethinking Security. We were particularly encouraged by this invitation as we are conscious of the relevance of immigration and border issues.

Pan-European networking is of importance. Apart from working closely with the Quaker Council of European Affairs (QCEA) in Brussels on asylum and related concerns, we value the broader ecumenical membership that Church and Peace brings together from across Europe.

Visit www.qarn.org.uk for updates and resources.

We empower and mobilise people and communities to consistently implement the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) because these seek the vision of a life in dignity for every individual, and in this they reflect God's concern for the world.

We want Christians to dream about a just world, actively engage in realizing this dream, and authentically live their faith. To this end, we develop training material for churches to encourage reflection on daily consumption habits and lifestyles as well as systemic-related political action.

Since 2019, together with many other organisations in Germany, we have been calling for the creation of a supply chain law which holds German companies with foreign operations accountable to human rights standards, and commits them to respect the environment and Creation.

Micah Germany



The interdenominational network Micah Germany was welcomed as corporate member.

Part of the global Micah movement, Micah Germany is a Berlin-based network of individuals, local groups, churches, and organisations founded on the guiding verse that is Micah 6:8: 'What is good and what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.'

We feel connected to the ecumenical work and theological and practical approaches of Church and Peace through our political campaign and empowerment work at the community level around questions of peacebuilding and strengthening justice and the integrity of creation.

Find out more at: <https://micha-initiative.de>

Members of the Micah group in Heidelberg



Photo: Micah Germany

Individual Members

**Kristin Flory**

Church of the Brethren, lives in Berlin, Germany

I was raised in the Church of the Brethren in the USA. My degree in Peace Studies led me to volunteer with various peace organisations in Germany and Austria. I have been acquainted with Church and Peace for over 40 years. One of the highlights of my work as coordinator of the Brethren Service Geneva Office (a Church and Peace founding member) were the annual gatherings. Involvement in a peace church is important to me.

After moving to Berlin in 2020, I am looking for additional ways to 'grow peace in my own garden plot' [to quote a former Mennonite service volunteer], which is why I want to be an individual member of Church and Peace.

**Andrew und Jewell Bolton**

Community of Christ, live in Leicester, United Kingdom

We have been married 43 years and have two sons. Quaker and Anabaptist traditions enrich and help our discipleship in the Community of Christ (CofChrist). We are committed to working ecumenically in the cause of Christ's peace. In an age of Brexit, right-wing nationalism, the widening gap between rich and poor, the lack of compassion for refugees and immigrants, and climate change, we can do more together for the peaceable kingdom of God than we can do separately.

In Church and Peace, we see an opportunity to learn, build relationships, be in solidarity in peace and reconciliation, and connect with and support networks that help us in our own peace mission.

**Ian Ring**

United Reformed Church, lives in Bromsgrove, United Kingdom

The network's aims and ethos resonate well with my views as a Christian Minister in the United Reformed Church. In an increasingly fractious, divided, and individualistic world where violence and the fear of violence is all too prevalent, it is essential for a strong counter voice to be heard, proclaiming and modelling peace, co-existence, tolerance, trust, and understanding across ethnic, nationalistic, and cultural boundaries.

Through my employment at the Community for Reconciliation, I spent a period on the Church and Peace Board. Although I have retired this summer, I did not retire as a Christian seeking to serve Jesus.

Church and Peace Member Activities

- The **Anglican Pacifist Fellowship** held an online vigil broadcast globally. The event featured reflections, poetry, and songs from members and dignitaries. <https://youtu.be/HUJlu6BNQMg>
- The **Bread and Roses Community** blocked the main gate of the Büchel (Germany) air base to disrupt regular training exercises.
- The **Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament** issued a statement supported by UK and other Christian leaders from nine denominations urging the UK government to abandon plans to replace the Trident nuclear program, and to take steps towards a world without nuclear weapons. They also held a commemoration service in Chelmsford Cathedral, UK.
- The **Community of Grandchamp** posted a Facebook prayer for the Feast of the Transfiguration with a call to work for justice. <https://t1p.de/o1nc>
- The **Ecumenical Information Centre Dresden** (Germany) organised an interactive art exhibition and vigil, and urged the city to join ICAN's Cities Appeal. <https://t1p.de/8yi5>
- The **German branch of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation (Versöhnungsbund)** co-organised a series of actions for peace which concluded with a 24-hour prayer vigil at the Büchel air base.
- The **Italian branch of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation (MIR Italia)** issued a press release 'Remember the Past to Change the Future' which renewed an appeal to the Italian government to join the TPNW. <https://t1p.de/mjk>
- The **Laurentiuskonvent Laufdorf** co-organised a vigil in Wetzlar, Germany. <https://youtu.be/cgHRIoIRB-c>
- The **Religious Society of Friends in Germany (Quaker)** organised an action for peace at the Büchel airbase to protest the nuclear weapons stored there.

Church and Peace Joins Interfaith Witness against Nuclear Weapons

On the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Church and Peace has joined faith-based communities around the world to speak with one voice against the existential threat to humanity of nuclear weapons.

In a statement from 6 August, nearly 190 organisations highlight the suffering, loss of human life, and environmental destruction caused by the attacks, as well as the courage of survivors who have borne witness to the harm of nuclear weapons. Comparing the impact of a possible nuclear event to that of the coronavirus pandemic, the coalition notes that the 'health, environmental and economic consequences would not be contained in space or time'.

The statement laments the racism and colonialism underlying the decision to test weapons on communities 'deemed expendable'. Signatories urge governments to use the anniversary to 'ensure that [nuclear weapons] are never used again in any circumstances' and call for States which haven't yet ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) to do so.

The coalition included six Church and Peace members – from

Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and the UK – as well as the World Council of Churches.

Church and Peace, with its members, has taken other action against nuclear weapons this year. In February, the network joined the International Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (ICAN) in order to support advocacy for ratification of the TPNW. And in April a press release in German criticised the plans of the German Ministry of Defence to purchase nuclear-capable fighter jets, calling for this money to be invested instead to protect the most vulnerable in Germany and worldwide.

Read the full statement and list of signatories at: <https://www.church-and-peace.org/en/2020/08/interfaith-statement-75y-hiroshima-nagasaki/>

Diary**30 October-1 November 2020***Church and Peace Board meeting*

Wethen, Germany

27-29 November 2020*German-language regional conference**'When they say, "There is peace and security"…'*

Thomashof, Karlsruhe, Germany

22-24 January 2021*German-language peace theology seminar series**'Peace and justice embrace'*Laurentiuskonvent Laufdorf, near Wetzlar,
Germany**4-6 February 2021***Church and Peace Board meeting***3-6 June 2021***Annual General Meeting and international conference*

Novi Sad, Serbia (TBC)

**Web Resources***Updated Church and Peace timeline**Press release in German about investing in security for all*

28 April 2020

"Together for Europe's Recovery" – promoting the EU's civilian peace capacities!

Press release, 30 June 2020

Press release in German about increased EU funding for peace building

24 July 2020

More Church and Peace press releases

Download and share in your networks!

www.church-and-peace.org/en/documents/

Recognising the Signs of the Times

New Church and Peace Initiative

The Church and Peace Board is initiating a dialogue process with members and friends of the network about the challenges facing peace churches in Europe in the 'new normal' brought about by the coronavirus pandemic.

We are indeed living through a unique moment in time. For us as a Board, the driving questions are: What are the signs of the times, what is at stake?

This has led to a new network project 'Recognising the Signs of the Times'. A dialogue paper of the same title aims to spur discussion in the Church and Peace regions, where possible in person, otherwise online. Guidelines have been prepared as a facilitation tool for these conversations and are available at the International Office.

We Board members have done a test run with the questions from the dialogue paper, first sharing our thoughts in writing and then via Zoom. The very personal reflections that emerged have created a deep sense of connection between us. It became clear how much the ban on social contact – more extensive in some countries than in others – heightened our sense of awareness and caused us to question anew our vulnerability and our human

dignity. The experience also highlighted regional differences: Lockdown against the backdrop of Brexit, for example, has its own unique impact.

Together, we want to put into words the experiences and insights of these past few months, discern what is specific to different regions and what we share in common – and, as we each are able, take responsibility to respond to the signs of the time. We hope that the results of this reflection will be fruitful for the ongoing work of Church and Peace.

And we may feel that Paul is speaking to us too when he writes: 'And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best' (Phil 1: 9-10).

Take part in the conversation!

Use the dialogue paper and request the facilitation guidelines to organise a discussion. Find more info at www.church-and-peace.org.

Global

Young Quakers Reflect on Peace and Justice

The Friends World Committee for Consultation, whose Europe-Middle East Section is a Church and Peace member, is supporting an online workshop series on climate action, peace, and justice, by young Quakers for young Quakers. Happening between August and October, the events provide a space for young Friends actively living out their faith to share experiences and consider future action.

Belgium

Spreading Active Nonviolence Virtually

Church and Peace member Sortir de la Violence (Getting Away from Violence) held its first-ever online retreats this summer. The Belgian organisation offered both classically structured and retreat-in-daily-life formats for participants looking to deepen the active nonviolence of Jesus in their lives. Drawing on the Gospel of Mark, the virtual retreats included small group and worship times as well as sessions with the facilitators, questions for personal reflection, and teaching. Learn more: sortirdelaviolence.org.



United Kingdom

Online Prayer Meetings Support Activism

Sparked by the coronavirus pandemic, the Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, Church and Peace associate member, has been organising regular online prayer meetings for nuclear disarmament and peace since May. Using Christian CND's monthly prayer diary, members and friends meet in a virtual space to exchange news of ongoing campaigns and pray for God's presence and leading as they work towards a nuclear-free world.



Switzerland

Self-Management in Turbulent Times

The Study and Conference Centre Bienenberg, a Church and Peace member, has published *Selbstführung in stürmischen Zeiten* (Self-Management in Turbulent Times). The book, by former Bienenberg director Frieder Boller, offers guidance on the emotional dynamics of interpersonal relationships and growth during crisis and conflict. Visit <https://t1p.de/20gm> to order a copy or to register for an online book discussion course.

Italy

Campaign to Demilitarise Schools

The Fellowship of Reconciliation in Italy (MIR Italia) has launched the 'Demilitarised Schools' campaign to promote a culture of peace and nonviolence in Italy's schools. With other civil society organisations, the Church and Peace member is providing resources to educate teachers and pupils about conflict prevention and transformation, and the protection of human rights. MIR Italia is urging schools to remain faithful to their educational responsibilities in accordance with Art. 11 of the Constitution which states: 'Italy repudiates war as a means of conflict resolution.'

the Network

Netherlands/Russia***Orthodox Peace Fellowship Welcomes Steps to Ban Weapons Blessing***

In a letter to Patriarch Kirill in April, the Orthodox Peace Fellowship (OPF) welcomed steps by the Russian Orthodox Church to ban the blessing of weapons of mass destruction, and urged that the guidelines be broadened to include all weapons. The letter also reflects on the nature of war and the pastoral care of soldiers. Church and Peace members Jim and Nancy Forest are OPF co-secretaries. <https://t1p.de/ugj8>

Germany/South East Europe***Workshop Focuses on South East Europe***

The newest team member of Church and Peace member *gewaltfrei handeln* (acting nonviolently), Ljubinka Petrovic-Ziemer, led an online workshop in late August on '25 years after Srebrenica and Dayton – Where is Bosnia today?'. The event, part of the organisation's annual summer conference, also featured contributions by Church and Peace members Ivan and Manda Prising (Serbia) and Ana and Otto Raffai (Croatia) on the situation in the region, exacerbated by the coronavirus, and their reconciliation work.

France***New Leadership at Paris Mennonite Centre***

The Paris Mennonite Centre, a Church and Peace member, is under new leadership since October. Matthew and Toni Krabill are to support Francophone churches throughout Europe with biblical, theological, missiological, and leadership teaching and training, and innovative eLearning resources. The Krabills succeed Janie and Neal Blough, Centre coordinators since 1987.

France***New Podcast on Unarmed Security***

Church and Peace associate member Stop Fuelling War has launched a French-language podcast to promote a vision of security not based on armed force. Project and advocacy staff talk to people affected by the arms trade on a daily basis. First episodes explored the question of human security and Eurosatory, the world's largest arms fair which was to be held in June in Paris. Listen in at: <https://t1p.de/wv31>.

**Switzerland*****Quaker Resources on Racism***

Through weekly online Spiritual Deeping sessions in June, the Geneva Monthly Meeting of Church and Peace member Switzerland Yearly Meeting (Quakers) reflected on racism, Quakers and race, and white privilege. A collection of related resources is available at: <https://t1p.de/znrz>.

Greece/Germany***Festival of Peace Activism Focuses on Lesbos***

In August the German Mennonite Peace Committee (DMFK), a Church and Peace member, hosted the Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) online festival of peace activism. The programme highlighted practical examples of faith-based peacebuilding work, with a special focus on CPT's Aegean Migrant Solidarity team on the Greek island of Lesbos. DMFK organised a study trip to Lesbos in September to offer an in-person encounter with this ongoing crisis on Europe's doorstep.



The Last Word

A Way Forward on an Unexpected Path

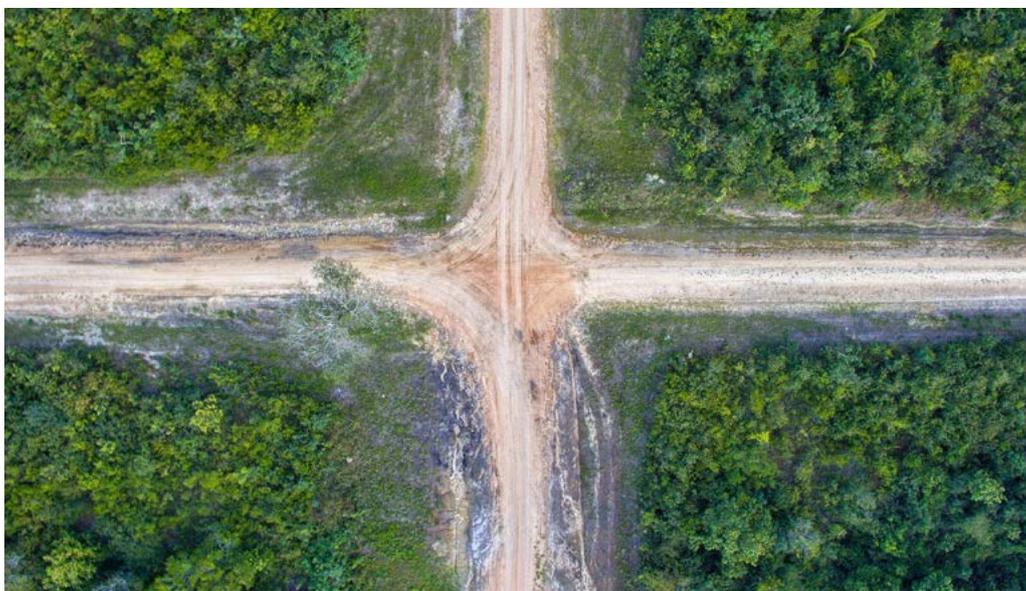
For Church and Peace founding member Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), the year 2020 marks both its 100th anniversary and fundamental organisational change. Due to funding concerns resulting from Covid-19, MCC ended its physical presence in Europe, formerly represented by Doug and Naomi Enns, in July. Its reshaped West Europe programme is now administered by Area Directors in Jordan. Naomi reflects on uncertain times and unexpected paths.

the spaces we find ourselves in – including the fractured ones. And to be grateful.

We are all fragile human beings. We carry our own ideas, our own images of God. We must learn to reconcile with the views of others for space to grow and to nurture transformation and grace. Engaging with churches and organisations on peace and social justice issues is a part of the healing of the wounds of the past and of the present and

For us personally and for MCC that means finding our feet again and finding a way to go forward on a path that was not chosen but a road we have now been placed on.

For you, who have long ties with MCC – 100 years for some, around 85 years here in West Europe and even at the beginnings of Church and Peace – it means finding a way to maintain bridges of peace and healing in this fragile world so that the most vulnerable and our societies might live well.



It is a time to rise up to the call as peacemakers to help others imagine alternative ways of being. To continue standing in the gap and reminding others of it. To keep being bridges in our communities of faith to another way of being and doing – pointing to God's kingdom.

As Duncan Morrow from the Corrymeela community in Northern Ireland says, 'Making peace costs so much. It demands a conversion; having an opportunity takes risk.'

MCC is still envisioning ways to maintain relations with Church and Peace, albeit from afar and physically distant. For, you have much to offer. You have been 'the breath of God made manifest' (Bob Holmes) for us, for MCC and for MCC West Europe.

In my 11 years of MCC service, I have been reminded that we are shaped by all that we walk through and in, and by those we have walked beside. We carry these shapings and these pictures of God with us.

of the future in our world. In that, public discourse, partnerships, and people all matter. Meaningful engagement matters in stopping violence, in exploring what it means to be the Church working for peace – now.

The pandemic has reminded us of the need to be attentive to

Covid-19 and organisational changes have placed us at a crossroad.

Naomi Enns