



2014 Church of the Brethren Annual Conference
Ministers of Reconciliation
Details

Purposes:

- To form a team as part of a continuing effort by the Annual Conference officers, with the assistance of On Earth Peace, to cultivate a faithful, safe, healing and conflict-healthy climate for all participants at the 2014 Church of the Brethren Annual Conference.
- To provide a ministry of presence to those who are anxious or hurting or simply need a listening ear, especially as they work through strong emotions.
- To provide a presence in the exhibit hall and other conference venues whereby team members can observe interactions and respond appropriately when anyone is being threatened or harmed, whether verbally, emotionally, or physically. *NOTE: This team will not serve as a substitute for regular law enforcement or conference site security in the unlikely event of a credible physical threat. In such cases, team members will notify the appropriate authorities.*

Overview:

- The Ministry of Reconciliation (MoR) of On Earth Peace will coordinate the selection, preparation and management of a diverse team of “Ministers of Reconciliation” who will be out and about throughout the Annual Conference in Columbus, Ohio from the opening of the exhibit hall on Wednesday (7/2) to the close of worship on Sunday (7/6), observing and responding as needed.
- This initiative will be in coordination with the On Earth Peace MoR Observers who are available during business sessions.
- All members of the Team will be expected to attend a 6-hour training prior to Annual Conference.
 - We will start with a 5pm supper on Tuesday, July 1 with one block of the training to follow from 6-9pm and the second block to be on Wednesday, July 2 from 9am-noon. For those who cannot arrive by 6pm on Tuesday, the first block will be repeated on Wednesday afternoon from 1-4pm.
 - All will be encouraged to take advantage of opportunities for the team to gather by conference call prior to conference.
- The Team will be comprised of a diverse group in terms of demographics and perspective who are already planning to attend Annual Conference, but who are not serving as delegates. Expenses (i.e., one night’s lodging and meals) of those for whom participating in training will mean arriving in Columbus a day early will be covered , double occupancy expected. Total number is limited.
- Each member of the team will be expected to commit to being “on duty” at some point during the conference for at least six hours.

- Qualities of a potential team member include:
 - Spiritual centeredness, self-awareness and self-control
 - Ability to be assertive and clear without being harsh – firm and gentle at the same time
 - Ability to keep an open spirit and listen well, even when tensions are high
 - Willingness to move toward conflict rather than away from it
 - Awareness of how one’s presence (posture, proximity, gestures, tone of voice) affects others, and ability to use presence in a helpful way
 - Ability to adapt to changing situations while keeping primary purposes in mind
 - Ability to work as part of a team as well as on one’s own
- Skills members will need to bring or be able to learn in a six-hour training include:
 - Crisis management (including dealing with ambiguous situations and safety in crisis situations)
 - De-escalation skills for face-to-face interactions (one-on-one and crowd)
 - Listening skills
 - Speaking skills (for example, paraphrasing, reframing)
 - Sensitivity to nonverbal communication
 - Problem-solving skills
 - Negotiation skills
 - Strategies to defuse anger/aggression
 - Ability to scan crowds and identify people needing assistance
 - Ability to project confidence and positive, calming presence to others
 - Ability to deal with fear and other feelings
 - Ability to make themselves heard and seen (for example through voice, tone, bodily posture, clothing, aura)
 - Ability to discern how/when to stay out of certain hot conflicts
 - Ability to use the communications plan put in place by team coordinator and Annual Conference officers

Interested? Intrigued? Feeling that gentle nudge of the Holy Spirit that signals a possible call? Want to suggest someone who would be gifted for this ministry? Email MoR director [Leslie Frye](#) or call 620-755-3940 by **March 15, 2014**.