



**2014 Church of the Brethren National Youth Conference**  
**Ministers of Reconciliation**  
Details

**Why?**

- Whenever 2-3000 (or more) people gather in Jesus' name there will be conflict! Especially when folks are traveling 1000s of miles, living together in community, and operating on too little sleep!
- We need to help each other if we are to be our best, most faithful selves.
- To cultivate and model a conflict-healthy climate for all participants at the 2014 Church of the Brethren National Youth Conference (NYC).

**What?**

- Provide a ministry of presence to those who are anxious or simply need a listening ear.
- Provide mediation services to help conference participants navigate conflict.
- Proactively encourage faithful conflict health.

**How?**

The Ministry of Reconciliation (MoR) of On Earth Peace will coordinate the selection, preparation and management of a team of "Ministers of Reconciliation" who will be available throughout the 2014 National Youth Conference from opening worship on Saturday (7/19) to the closing worship on Thursday (7/24).

- Team members will:
  - Observe and respond as needed.
  - Be available to mediate conflict on the spot or by appointment, as appropriate.
  - Be comprised of a diverse group in terms of demographics and perspective (primarily Young Adults) who are already planning to attend NYC.
  - Be identified by wearing yellow lanyards and "Ministers of Reconciliation" tags.
  - Participate in pre-conference orientation call(s) and a 3-hour on-site training the afternoon (1-4pm?) of Saturday, July 19.
- 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 provided training include:

- 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 conflicts

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**.