

Are We “Just” Neighbors?

We often speak of the world as a global village full of neighbors. What one does on one side of the globe often has an impact on someone else on the other side of the globe. Our world is so interconnected now.... During this learning track International Church Partners from around the globe will help participants learn more about how we all can be “just” neighbors in our interactions and relationships with one another.

During the first day of this learning track, participants will identify with the help of International Church Partners the “wounds” that exist in the global village. An attempt will be made to determine some of the roots causes and systemic reasons that create the injustices that can be observed in various countries around the world.

The second day of the learning track will be devoted to sharing possible paths to “healing” for some of the identified “wounds”. There will be an attempt to avoid “band-aid” solutions with an emphasis on what each participant can practically do to promote systemic change on the “wounds” that are discussed in his/her during the two days. Each participant will return home with an action plan to work on.

Participants who are interested in approaching these issues from a theatrical point of view will have an opportunity during the Global Ministries/Disciples Peace Fellowship pre-event and during the two days of the learning track to work with Ingrid De Sanctis, Artist in Residence at Eastern Mennonite University. Ingrid will help participants portray the “wounds” and “healing” in short “justice” theatre skits.

Some of the themes that will be discussed and partners who will be present are the following:

- **Latin America and the Caribbean - *discrimination of indigenous peoples*:**
- **East Asia and the Pacific - *environment/climate change*:**
 1. Rev. Dr Feleterika Nokise - Principal of The Pacific Theological College and Senior Lecturer in Pacific Church History, Ecumenism and Missiology.
 2. Ms. Hua Yao - Class 1, Grade 10 Nanjing Foreign Language School
- **Africa - *socio-economic disparity*:**
 1. Rev. Eliki Bonanga, General Secretary and Legal Representative of the Community of Disciples of Christ of the Congo (CDCC)
 2. Dr. George Bokamba, Professor at Univ of IL (Urbana-Champaign)
- **Middle East and Europe - *war/peace*:**
 1. Middle East—Maha Khoury/Meo (Palestine), Rawdat El-Zuhur [child sponsorship center]
 2. Europe—Rev. Semko Koroza (Poland), Evangelical Church of Poland
- **Southern Asia - *interfaith conflict/dialogue*:**
 1. Rev. Dr. Richard Daulay, General Secretary of the Communion of Churches in Indonesia
- **United States and Canada -**

This learning track is being prepared by Global Ministries, Week of Compassion and Children’s Ministries of Disciples Home Missions. It is open to all ages and will have a youth/young adult component as well as children’s activities.