

Steering Committee

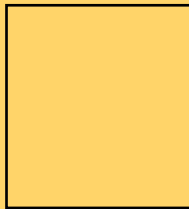
Thomas Swain, Clerk
Judith Anderson
Michelle Armster
David Bates
Jordan Blevins
Ted Brinton
Francis G. Brown
Samuel D. Caldwell
Gretchen Castle
Aaron Crosman
Suzanne Day
Zac Dutton
Jonathan Evans
Patricia Finley
Robin Harper
Phillip Jones
J. Fred Kaufman
Arthur M. Larrabee
Marlon Millner
Don Mitchell
Elisha B. Morris
Andy Peifer
Kate Perch
Peggy Pillard
Josh Sollenberger
Jim Waddington
Barbara Walker

Therese Miller,
Gathering Director

Liz Perch,
Gathering Coordinator

Advisory Committee

Paul Anderson
Bruce Birchard
Bob Edgar
Sylvia Graves
Bob Gross
Sallie King
Paul Lacey
Susan Mark Landis
Ron Young
Stanley Noffsinger
Tom Paxson
Ann Riggs



Joe and Jane Sample
2222 Johnson Street
Philadelphia, PA 19122

Heeding God's Call
A Gathering on Peace



1515 Cherry Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102



Heeding God's Call
A Gathering on Peace



Strengthening
our witness and
work for peace in
the world by
inspiring hope,
raising voices,
taking action

A joint effort of the Church of the
Brethren, Mennonite Church USA
and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of
the Religious Society of Friends.

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
January 13-17, 2009

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), the Church of the Brethren and Mennonite Church USA

are planning a significant conference to bring together an ecumenical group working for peace in the world.

Heeding God's Call: A Gathering on Peace will be held January 13-17, 2009, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The mission statement for the Gathering declares that the purpose is **“to strengthen our witness and work for peace in the world by inspiring hope, raising voices, taking action.”**

Members of the Historic Peace Churches planning this gathering have a growing sense that the Spirit is stirring people of faith to renew, revitalize and bring together efforts to seek peace amidst our nation's violent responses to international terrorism and the violence in institutions and neighborhoods. These people of faith must seek nonviolent ways to confront this violence, terrorism and fear. The challenge is to find new ways to address violence through acts of goodness, compassion and honest efforts to understand

and meet the legitimate needs of others. Although our gathering will have an ecumenical focus, we are deeply aware that the most effective work for peace will ultimately require interfaith vision, effort and cooperation. With this belief in mind, we earnestly hope to attract the participation of representatives of the Jewish and Muslim faiths who, together with Christians, have a common heritage as descendants of Abraham.

The Gathering will guide participants in exploring and celebrating together the spiritual grounding of our individual and collective peace work and witness as seen in the life and teachings of Jesus. A combination of worship, plenary sessions, workshops, sharing in small groups, and panel discussions, will explore the faith basis of our peace testimonies; raise up

One day we must come to see that peace is not merely a distant goal we seek, but that it is a means by which we arrive at that goal. We must pursue peaceful ends through peaceful means.

~Martin Luther King Jr.~

The original inspiration for the Gathering was found in the Bible:

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

~Romans 12:21~

current peace work and witness; and examine how we might better support and engage each other in ongoing peace work, as well as in creating new opportunities to witness together for a more peaceful world. We anticipate a total of 600 participants,

approximately half of whom will be from the Historic Peace Churches and half from other Christian traditions.

The Gathering is envisioned as a place where participants will worship and work together, under the guidance and leading of the Holy Spirit, to develop new bonds, new ideas, and new energy for the work of building peace in themselves, their cities, the nation and the world. The Gathering on Peace will work to produce outcomes, including projects, suggestions, and actions that enlarge our peace concerns. We hope to have a declaration at the conclusion of the Gathering, as well.

Participants will return to their communities with a deeper commitment to God's call to nonviolence and peace building, with renewed energy, prepared for powerful peace action and with more attentiveness to the Spirit that dwells within all, calling all to restore God's world for all God's children.

Denominations and peace fellowships interested in sending delegates to the Gathering should contact:

Liz Perch, Gathering Coordinator
c/o Philadelphia Yearly Meeting
1515 Cherry Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102
admin@peacegathering2009.org
267.519.5301