

PEACEMAKING PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2018

Calendar Items

**Monday, December 10 -
Human Rights Day** (see article)

Friday, January 11, 2019 will mark the 17th anniversary of the opening of the **Guantanamo Bay prison**. It is also **Human Trafficking Awareness Day**.

**Saturday, January 12, 2019 -
Peacemaking Partnership
Annual Planning Meeting - 9
am to noon**, North Decatur
Presbyterian Church. All are
welcome!

**Tuesday, January 29,
Presbyterians for a Better
Georgia Advocacy Training** at
First Presbyterian Church of
Atlanta, 1328 Peachtree St NE,
6:00 p.m. light dinner followed
by training. For more info, go
to www.p4bg.org

**Wednesday, February 6,
Presbyterians for a Better
Georgia Day at the Capitol**,
meet at Central Presbyterian
Church for issues update and
then walk across the street to
meet with legislators. For
more info, go to
www.p4bg.org

Hosts needed for Christmas International House Program

Christmas International House is a ministry of hospitality for international college and graduate students during their winter break, allowing them to travel to a new city and stay in an American home to learn about our culture and experience first-hand how we celebrate Christmas. Twenty-five International students (studying at colleges/universities throughout the US) will be coming to Atlanta and AMIS (Atlanta Ministry with International Students) is looking for hosts for 3-4 nights anytime during December 18 to January 2. To sign up or learn more, go to www.amis-inc.org, or email: office@amis-inc.org, or call: 404-846-4396. AMIS and Christmas International House are ministries supported by the Peacemaking Partnership.

Celebrating Human Rights Day

In 1945 when the United Nations was created, its charter affirmed the "dignity and worth of the human person." On December 10, 1948, the UN General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which affirmed this basic tenet of the UN charter. The nations of the world and several faith groups now celebrate December 10 as **Human Rights Day**. There are 30 short articles in the UDHR. The first article states, "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and human rights." The third article adds, "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person."

Article 5 states clearly, "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment." So the prohibition against torture derives from the agreement by the nations in the UN that the principle of honoring the dignity of human beings – a principle shared by all major religions – is an underlying principle for both nations and individuals. Thirty-six

New resource from PC(USA) UN Office

Presbyterian churches now have a new tool to energize and educate congregations around global issues such as poverty alleviation and climate change. The Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations (PMUN) has produced a new Educational Resource Guide that highlights what the PC(USA) and its global church partners are doing to address the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals.

The 17 goals were set by world leaders in 2015 to cover social and economic development issues such as global warming, energy, social justice, poverty and hunger. The UN says the goals are "broad and interdependent," but contain a list of targets to achieve.

Ryan Smith, PMUN director, says the guide takes each of the 17 goals and looks at the way the church is working to achieve them, including Biblical resources.

"Congregations or individuals can take three or four goals and prepare a Sunday School curriculum and talk about the ways the church is working to achieve those goals", Smith said.

You can download this resource - (46 pages) - google PC(USA) United Nations Office and scroll down to "Resources" - Study and Devotional Guide for the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Peacemaking Partnership members studied these goals in 2018.

years later, on December 10, 1984, the UN General Assembly adopted the text of the Convention Against Torture, an international treaty ratified by the U.S. in 1994. The nations of the world and several faith groups celebrate December 10 as Human Rights Day. December 10, 2018 will be the 70th anniversary of the signing of the UDHR. (from [NRCAT - National Religious Campaign Against Torture](#) - www.nrcat.org)

Program Announced for Office of Public Witness Compassion, Peace and Justice Training

April 5th - New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC

David LaMotte, award-winning songwriter, speaker and writer, will be the keynote speaker at Compassion Peace and Justice Training Day on April 5. LaMotte's speaking and workshop calendar has included presenting at the PC(USA) Mission to the United Nations, keynoting peace conferences in Berlin and at the Scottish Parliament, as well as offering the baccalaureate for 2016 graduates of Columbia Seminary. As a keynote speaker, and then Critical Conversations Coordinator, he has facilitated conversations about race, privilege, and positive change for thousands of college students at the Montreat College Conference.

LaMotte suspended his eighteen-year music career at its peak in 2008 to pursue his other primary vocation by accepting a Rotary World Peace Fellowship to study International Relations, Peace and Conflict Resolution at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia. As part of that study, he also spent time in rural Andhra Pradesh, India working with a Gandhian development organization.

Ecumenical Advocacy Days will follow on April 6 - 8

For more info or to register, go to www.presbyterianmission.org and click on **Office of Public Witness**. Peacemaking Partnership may be able to assist with a scholarship for part of the registration expense. If you or someone in your congregation is interested in applying, please contact Karen Turney, kt2654@gmail.com by January 12, 2019.