

**Peace & Justice Committee Minutes**  
**March 14, 2016**

Present: Vonetta Storbakken (Chair), Curtis Book, Roger Mast, Brook Musselman

1. Brook opened by praying the prayer of Justice, Psalm 7. Vonetta shared a reflection written by her husband, Jason.
2. Vonetta asked each member to share their middle names and what superhero they would be:
  - a. Curtis would have the ability to influence those he chooses
  - b. Roger would fly
  - c. Vonetta would be invisible
  - d. Brook would have the strength of Popeye
3. Recruitment
  - a. Brook has had no success recruiting committee members from the Reading area
  - b. Curtis suggested asking Lisa White Cameron (Blossom Hill) to join the committee. She is the new ACC Representative to MCC East Coast. Brook will send Vonetta Lisa's contact info for an official invitation.
  - c. Sandra Perez, Hyacinth Stevens, and Ruth Wenger were also suggested as new members.
4. Peace Packets
  - a. Brook showed the materials that are ready to be sent to youth attendees of ACC churches who will be graduating high school this year. Packets will be sent in the coming weeks.
5. Peace Mug
  - a. Mugs are ordered and we have several in stock
  - b. Warren Tyson and Frantz St. Iago were nominated to receive this year's peace mug. Brook suggested waiting a year before awarding it to either of them.
  - c. Addi banks and Ruth Wenger were also nominated. Neither attend an ACC church, so Brook will see whether this is a necessary requirement to receive ACC's Peace Mug.
6. Grocery Bags – Tabled
7. A drone protest will be held at the Horsham facility on March 26. Brook will include info on this in the next Peace Advocate Newsletter.
8. Brook shared about the upcoming Assembly on April 16 where the focus will be on the Israel-Palestine conflict. Conference leaders will hear the perspective of a Palestinian man, discuss theology that impacts the conflict, and will hear about ways that ACC congregations are involved in the region.

9. Curtis gave a report from MCC
  - a. Learning Tours
    - i. Israel-Palestine Tour – September
    - ii. Us Mexican Border – May & October
    - iii. Native American Tour – tentatively planned for September
  - b. Ecumenical Advocacy Days – conference held in Washington DC April 15-18
    - i. Focus this year is on racism, class, power
    - ii. Scholarships are available to young adults – see Curtis Book for more details
  - c. MCC is still exploring the possibility of opening an advocacy office in Harrisburg, PA
  - d. Syria Crisis Response – MCC is encouraging congregations to remain involved in the crisis response. Material aid and donations are dwindling, but these are what often influence people to stay in the region rather than seeking safety externally as a refugee.
  - e. Action Alerts
    - i. 5 year anniversary of the Syrian Civil War – Tuesday, March 15, 2016
    - ii. Immigration: the New Sanctuary Movement is seeking Menno support for a PA law to make drivers licenses available to illegal immigrants
    - iii. Bring Pastor Max Home – online petition and advocacy effort to return this Iowa Pastor from deportation to Honduras
    - iv. Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act
      1. Reduces some mandatory minimum sentences
      2. Allows work release for nonviolent offenses
10. Next Meeting: Monday, May 9, 2016, 5:30 at the ACC office

*recorder, Brook Musselman*