

## **Peacemaking Scenes Through the Seasons**



**A Collection of Skits  
Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of  
*Peacemaking: The Believers' Calling* and  
the Peacemaking Emphasis in  
the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
2010**

**S. Thomas Niccolls, Ervin H. Bullock, W. Mark Koenig**

## **ABOUT THIS RESOURCE**

The skits in this resource are intended to help Presbyterians observe the thirtieth anniversary of the Presbyterian Peacemaking, affirm ongoing efforts for peace and justice, and look to future peacemaking ministries.

Those using the skits are encouraged to adapt them freely to fit the specific situation in which they are used. The skits are written for use in congregations but can easily be rewritten for use in other settings. In several skits, a woman or man of any age can play any character. Change names and dialogue as needed. The skits require a few easily obtainable props. Feel free to substitute other items for the props if needed. In one case, suggestions are made for costumes.

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The Rev. W. Mark Koenig, editor of this resource, serves as the Coordinator of the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program.

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1-888-728-7228, ext. 8700**

**This resource is available at:**

**[www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/pubs/pubs.htm#web](http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/pubs/pubs.htm#web)**

**God Protects the Vulnerable**  
**A Skit for the 30th Anniversary of the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program**  
S. Thomas Niccolls

**Characters:** Narrator, Herald of the Princess, Princess of Egypt, Miriam (Moses' Sister), Jochebed (Moses' Mother)

**Props:** doll to play the part of the baby Moses, bell

**Costumes:** The Presbyterian Peacemaker wears modern dress and a nametag that says "Presbyterian Peacemaker." Miriam, Jochebed, and the Herald of the Princess could wear drab, simple robes, sandals, and head coverings. The Princess could be lavishly dressed with a colorful robe and bright jewels.

**Narrator:** This year we celebrate thirty years of the peacemaking emphasis within the Presbyterian Church. For thirty years, the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program has helped Presbyterians engage in ministries of peacemaking. As we celebrate, we remember that God was involved in peace giving long before that. Scripture tells us that God is always working to bring hope for the downtrodden and to extend protection for the most vulnerable. This can be seen in the story of God's deliverance of the Hebrew people. This morning, we remember a portion of that story. To do so we take you to the shores of the River Nile in Egypt.

*[The HERALD OF THE PRINCESS enters, ringing a bell. The PRINCESS follows several steps behind, walking imperiously and carrying a baby (the doll) wrapped in swaddling clothes. MIRIAM follows stealthily behind the PRINCESS.]*

**Herald:** *[The HERALD continues to ring the bell and calls aloud.]* Bow down! Bow down! Make way for the Princess!

**Princess:** *[She stops abruptly and speaks harshly to the HERALD.]* Halt! *[The HERALD stops, freezes at attention, staring straight ahead, and does not look back during the conversation that follows. The PRINCESS does not turn around, but calls to MIRIAM, who trails behind her.]* Come here, girl! Quickly!

**Miriam:** *[She comes shyly forward. She moves in front of the PRINCESS and kneels before her. She does not make eye contact, looking at the ground.]* I am at your service, O Princess.

**Princess:** What is your name?

**Miriam:** Miriam.

**Princess:** [*Angrily.*] I saw you following me to the river. You've been watching me the whole time, haven't you? Why have you been spying on me? I could have you sent to prison? How would you like that?

**Miriam:** Forgive me, Princess. I meant no harm. I had heard how beautiful you are, and I just wanted to see you for myself.

**Princess:** You thought you'd watch me take my bath in the river, did you? Surely you must know that is forbidden. You are daring for a Hebrew slave. [*MIRIAM starts to raise her head, but the PRINCESS gestures that MIRIAM is to keep looking at the ground.*] Why, I ought to order you to the brick works. You look strong enough to make bricks out of mud and straw. My father the Pharaoh has commanded that your people help build his palaces. That will take many bricks. Would you like to do that? Would you like to make bricks in the hot sun?

**Miriam:** [*She falls face down on the ground.*] Oh no, Princess. I beg you. Let me serve you instead. I could help you with your child.

**Princess:** He is not my child! He is one of those Hebrew babies who should have been killed. [*She pauses and reflects.*] But I found him hidden in that little boat in the tall grass at the edge of the river. [*She pauses briefly.*] So his life is now in my hands. [*Finally she speaks gently.*] Stand up, girl. Come look at him.

**Miriam:** [*She slowly rises and looks at the baby. She still does not look the PRINCESS in the face.*] Oh, Princess, he is beautiful. Just look at his dark hair and those lovely eyes.

**Princess:** Yes, you are right. But my father, the Pharaoh, says all Hebrew boys should be killed, for there are too many of your people in our land.

**Miriam:** [*She dares to look at the PRINCESS for the first time.*] How could you kill such a child? Each child is precious to our God.

**Princess:** I don't know about that. [*A brief pause for reflection.*] He is so small. And helpless. How could he hurt anyone? And he is beautiful.

**Miriam:** I know someone who could nurse him. [*She pauses, waiting to see how the PRINCESS reacts. When the PRINCESS does not respond, she continues.*] She could take care of him until he is old enough to come to your palace. He could become your servant. He would serve you well.

**Princess:** Hmmm. That is something to think about. If he proves to be smart, I could have him well taught. And then if he proves himself an excellent boy, I could even make him my own son. [*Longingly.*] I have wanted a son for many days. [*She ponders.*] What shall I do?

**Miriam:** O Princess, let me run and bring my mother. She is the one I mean. She is a skilled nurse. She could care for the child and then bring him to you at your palace.

**Princess:** [*She thinks a few more moments and then speaks decisively.*] Go, Miriam. Get your mother. Go before I change my mind!

**Miriam:** [*She runs out and returns with JOCHEBED. They kneel before the PRINCESS and MIRIAM speaks.*] Princess, this is my mother Jochebed. She could take good care of the child.

**Princess:** Arise, both of you. [*She looks to JOCHEBED.*] Woman, I want you to nurse this child carefully and when he is weaned bring him to my palace. I want to adopt him as my son.

**Jochebed:** I shall do as you command, your majesty. What is the child's name?

**Princess:** Yes. . .what shall his name be? I think I shall call him. . .I think I shall call him. . .I know, I shall call him Moses, because I shall move him out of the river and into a royal palace. Ah yes, Moses, just wait until you grow up. Surely you will be a great man. [*She gives the doll to JOCHEBED.*] I must go now. Do not fail in your task Jochebed, for this is a special child! [*She calls to the HERALD.*] Move on.

**Herald:** [*The HERALD rings the bell once, then moves and speaks. The PRINCESS follows.*] Bow down! Bow down! Make way for the Princess!

**Jochebed:** [*After the HERALD and the PRINCESS exit, JOCHEBED speaks to the doll.*] A special child, she says. A special child. I know better than she does that you are special. I gave you birth. I hid you in the tall grass at the river. And God protected you. God protected you and cared for you. Now you can come back home, Moses. [*She turns to MIRIAM and speaks.*] Miriam, you will help care for your brother. Some day, God may help you both to care for our people. [*They exit.*]

**Narrator:** Peacemaking has always been the believers' calling. It remains our calling today. We follow in the steps of Miriam and Moses, Jochebed and Jesus as we seek to protect the innocent from the violence of the powerful, and nurture our children in the ways of peace, and speak for justice for all people. This year marks the thirtieth anniversary of the Presbyterian emphasis on peacemaking and the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program. During this celebration, let us commit ourselves anew to living for the *Shalom* of God in every season.

**Paul and Lydia**  
**The First European Peacemaking Committee (Acts 16)**  
**A Skit for the 30th Anniversary of the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program**  
S. Thomas Niccolls

**Characters:** Narrator, Paul, Lydia

**Props:** staff, earthenware jar of water, cup

**Narrator:** On a warm day, Paul approaches the outskirts of Philippi, a leading city and Roman colony in Macedonia. It is about twenty years after Jesus' death.

*[PAUL enters. Using a staff, he walks slowly as if reaching the top of a hill. He stops, wipes his brow, and speaks.]*

**Paul:** Oh, that hill was steep. *[He gestures in front of him.]* Philippi. At last. What a hot road. That's a long ten miles from Neapolis.

*[LYDIA enters. She carries a jar of water and a cup.]*

**Lydia:** Shalom, stranger. And welcome to Philippi. May I offer you a drink? *[She fills the cup with water from the jar and gives it to PAUL.]*

**Paul:** *[Speaks as he takes the cup.]* Shalom. Thanks be to God for your kindness. *[He sinks wearily down to the ground. He drinks quickly.]*

**Lydia:** My name is Lydia. Have you come far?

**Paul:** I'm Paul of Tarsus. I've come to share the good news of God's chosen Messiah, who brings us God's peace. *[He gives LYDIA the cup.]*

**Lydia:** I would like to hear more, but I am on my way to prayers by the riverside. *[She begins to walk away. PAUL rises and calls after her.]*

**Paul:** One moment, Lydia, I'd like to join you if I may. But I have a question.

**Lydia:** Yes?

**Paul:** I'm concerned about the soldiers here. I know the Romans have a military camp here to protect the Egnatian Way. Are they friendly toward Jews?

**Lydia:** It depends. Sometimes they make us carry their packs a mile. I try not to offend them. They have to perform sacrifices for Caesar, as you know. Most don't understand our God.

**Paul:** Ah yes, just like the Roman Governor in Jerusalem, Pontius Pilate, who crucified Jesus. Pilate couldn't understand that the true Messiah was a man of peace, as the prophet Isaiah said. Why, Jesus told his disciples not to return violence for violence. He taught them to resist in other ways. For example, he told his disciples to carry soldiers' packs not for one mile but for two.

**Lydia:** [*She gasps.*] They aren't allowed to do that. The soldiers can only make us carry a pack for one mile. No more. That's the Roman rule.

**Paul:** I know. But that's what he taught. And when his followers did it, well, a couple of soldiers got in trouble.

**Lydia:** [*She smiles.*] I see. I'd like to know more about this Jesus.

**Paul:** I would like to tell you and your friends about Jesus and the good news. Some of my companions will be along shortly as well.

**Lydia:** Then come with me, Paul. We gather outside the western gate by the river. I do want to hear more about this Jesus. Is he truly the Messiah?

**Paul:** Ah, Lydia, I can tell you this: Jesus rules not with swords and spears, as does Caesar, but with everlasting love.

**Lydia:** He sounds like a man of peace. For such a ruler I have waited all my life. God knows that Caesar cares little for our lives. After our prayers you must be my guest, for surely you are tired from your long journey.

**Paul:** May God bless you, Lydia. God has already touched your heart with his Spirit of love and peace. [*They exit together.*]

**Narrator:** In a way, Paul and Lydia formed the first peacemaking committee in Europe as they spread the good news of God's peace giving through Christ. This gospel outlasted even the might of the Roman Empire, and remains relevant in this time of war and hunger, injustice and violence. Through the years, Christians have worked for peace and justice in Jesus' name. Presbyterians have been among them. Presbyterians who follow Jesus' way of peace by telling good news. Sharing a listening ear. Standing on a picket line. Meeting sisters and brothers from other countries. Breaking down racism. Marching against war. Asking elected officials to work for justice. Building a house. Creating a home. Nurturing community. For thirtyyears, the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program has supported Presbyterians in these and many other ministries. Presbyterians will continue to witness to the gospel of the Prince of Peace through the years to come.



**Peacemaking: The Biblical Connection**  
**A Skit for the 30th Anniversary of the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program**  
Ervin H. Bullock

**Characters:** Player 1, Player 2

**Props:** 2 chairs, newspaper, *Blessed are the Peacemakers Poster* (The poster may be purchased for \$2.00 plus s/h from Presbyterian Distribution Service. Order online at [www.pcusa.org/marketplace/index.jsp](http://www.pcusa.org/marketplace/index.jsp) or by calling 800-524-2612. Specify item 70-270-05-005.)

*[Place two chairs facing each other at the center of the set. The characters enter. PLAYER 1 carries a newspaper. PLAYER 2 carries a Blessed are the Peacemakers poster. They sit. PLAYER 1 reads the paper; PLAYER 2 studies the poster. After a moment, PLAYER 1 speaks.]*

**Player 1:** The stories in this paper are disturbing. There are wars in so many places. The whole world around, people turn to violence.

**Player 2:** “Let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.”

**Player 1:** As if we don’t have enough ways to wage war, there are nuclear weapons. Does North Korea have them? Is Iran working on them? Will the United States seek new weapons systems? You’d think we would know better.

**Player 2:** “They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks.”

**Player 1:** People abuse and violate others. Racism and sexism hurt God’s children.

**Player 2:** “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors!”

**Player 1:** We waste food while people go hungry. We exploit and wound the earth.

**Player 2:** “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. . .do not let your hearts be troubled. . .do not let them be afraid.”

**Player 1:** So much greed, fear, anger, and pain in so many places. The news makes me feel hopeless. Someone should do something.

**Player 2:** “And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.”

**Player 1:** What are you reading?

**Player 2:** It's a poster from the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program that combines pictures of people doing peacemaking with Bible passages about peacemaking.

**Player 1:** I didn't realize there were so many passages about peacemaking.

**Player 2:** Peace and justice are central to the Bible. God's people have always worked for peace and justice. Jesus is called the Prince of Peace. Thirty years ago the Presbyterian Church recognized that God calls all believers to live as peacemakers.

**Player 1:** What happened?

**Player 2:** A lot of Presbyterians were concerned about racism and the nuclear arms race and war and poverty and hunger and damage to the environment and other issues related to peace and justice. For as long as there have been Presbyterians, there have been Presbyterian peacemakers.

**Player 1:** So thirty years ago they just made some kind of statement?

**Player 2:** Remember, these are Presbyterians.

**Player 1:** Ah, they formed a committee.

**Player 2:** A task force. That group worked prayerfully and carefully for five years. In 1980, the General Assembly adopted a document called *Peacemaking: The Believers' Calling*. The document recognized that God calls us all to ministries of justice, reconciliation, and peacemaking. It affirmed that Presbyterians had been involved in those ministries over the years. It established peacemaking as a priority of the church and led to the creation of the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program.

**Player 1:** I've heard of them. They helped sponsor that speaker from Zimbabwe that visited here last year. And that interfaith team from India that came to First Church.

**Player 2:** That's right. Our church sent two folks to the Peacemaking Conference last summer.

**Player 1:** Say, don't we take some sort of offering. . .?

**Player 2:** The Peacemaking Offering.

**Player 1:** That's the one. We used part of it for those parenting classes last year and we gave some to the domestic violence center. [*Pause.*] So we are doing something about those stories in the newspaper.

**Player 2:** Our congregation is involved in a number of peacemaking ministries in our neighborhood. And through the Peacemaking Offering, working with other Presbyterians and a whole lot of partners, we support other efforts in the area and throughout the nation and around the world.

**Player 1:** Let me see this poster. [*Brief pause as PLAYER 1 looks at the poster.*] I feel better knowing I'm a part of this. It is something to celebrate.

**Player 2:** This thirtieth anniversary provides an opportunity to give thanks for the peacemakers we have known and the peacemaking we have done. But it's also a time to renew our commitment to peacemaking.

**Player 1:** Speaking of time, we had better get going if we don't want to be late for church. [*Stands to leave. Pauses and speaks.*] Say, why don't you bring that poster along.

**Player 2:** Why?

**Player 1:** We should talk to folks at church about how we can observe this anniversary. After all, peacemaking is the believers' calling.

**Player 2:** And we live it all year round.

[*ALL exit.*]

**Peacemaking: Generations**  
**A Skit for the 30th Anniversary of the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program**  
Ervin Bullock

**Characters:** **Generation 1** (oldest), **Generation 2**, **Generation 3**, **Generation 4**  
(youngest)

**Props:** **birthday cake and candles (or just candles), table, four chairs**

[*GENERATION 4, GENERATION 2, and GENERATION 1 enter, singing “Happy Birthday.”*]

**Generation 4, Generation 2, and Generation 1:** “Happy Birthday to you, Happy Birthday to you, Happy Birthday Dear. . .” [*They stop singing.*]

**Generation 4:** [*Speaks to the congregation.*] Do you know whose birthday it is?

[*GENERATION 3 enters carrying a cake with candles or just candles for a birthday cake. GENERATION 1, GENERATION 2, AND GENERATION 4 sit at the table.*]

**Generation 3:** [*Speaks to the congregation.*] Do you know what was born thirty years ago in the Presbyterian Church? [*Sits with the others.*]

**Generation 2:** Thirty years takes us back to 1980. I remember those days. We were concerned about the nuclear arms race and the cold war. Vietnam was still on our minds. We had made progress in the civil rights movement, but racism still haunted us. We had noticed the growing poverty of people around the world. And the way we were treating the planet was starting to take its toll. Presbyterians were asking what should we as Christians be saying about these issues? What should we be doing?

**Generation 1:** Presbyterians had been concerned about peace and justice and public issues ever since there were Presbyterians. Christians have sought peace since . . . [*Pauses to think of the word to use.*]

**Generation 4:** [*Speaks enthusiastically.*] . . . since forever!

**Generation 1:** Well, since people have followed Jesus. [*Pauses briefly to reflect.*] But thirty years ago, after prayer and study, the Presbyterian Church proclaimed that peacemaking is essential to our faith, that it is the believers’ calling. Peacemaking was made a priority of the church. And the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program was created to help nurture and equip Presbyterians all across the church to work for peace and justice.

**Generation 3:** I was young when this happened but it has encouraged me through the years to know that my church has looked for ways to work for reconciliation, justice, and peace. I try to get involved in peacemaking ministries. It helps me realize the church is relevant to our lives and our world.

**Generation 4:** Some folks may think I'm too young to worry about violence and war but my friends and I do worry. We see the news. We see the fights at school. We worry. So I'm proud my church works for peace.

**Generation 2:** We invite you to join in celebrating the thirtieth anniversary of the Presbyterian Church proclaiming that peacemaking is our calling as Christians. You can do that through your prayers for peace or through participating in \_\_\_\_\_ (FILL IN A PEACEMAKING MINISTRY OF THE CONGREGATION) or by taking part in \_\_\_\_\_ (FILL IN AN ACTIVITY OF THE CONGREGATION CELEBRATING THE ANNIVERSARY.)

**Generation 1:** Right now you can join us in singing.

**Generation 4:** And we'll sing "dear Presbyterian Peacemakers."

**All (including congregation):** Happy birthday to you,  
Happy birthday to you,  
Happy birthday dear Presbyterian Peacemakers,  
Happy birthday to you.

[*ALL exit.*]

**Meet the Presbyterians**  
**A Skit for the 30th Anniversary of the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program**  
S. Thomas Niccolls, Ervin H. Bullock, W. Mark Koenig

**Characters:** Emcee, Will Washington, Sue Circling, Lou Tomato, Ima DuWell  
(Ima should be played by a child), C.W. Knox

**Props:** four chairs, two music stands

*[The four chairs are placed in a row in the center of the set with a music stand placed at each end of the row. WILL, SUE, LOU, AND IMA enter and sit in chairs. After they are settled, the EMCEE enters and stands behind one of the music stands.]*

**Emcee:** Thank you and welcome to another episode of *Meet the Presbyterians*—the award-winning show in which Presbyterians learn more about an interesting topic.

Let's meet our panelists. First is Will Washington, who spends his free time writing Op-Eds for the local paper on issues of peace and justice. Next there is Sue Circling, who teaches classes on parenting and volunteers at the domestic violence shelter. Joining them today is the talented cook, Lou Tomato, who is in charge of St. Everyone's Presbyterian Church Friday meal program. Finally we have Ima DuWell, peer mediator at Harriet Tubman Elementary School.

Joining us today as our guest expert is C.W. Knox.

*[C.W. KNOX enters and stands at the other music stand.]*

**Emcee:** Welcome C.W. It's good to have you with us.

**Knox** It's good to be here.

**Emcee:** C.W. Do those initials stand for anything?

**Knox:** Calvin Witherspoon. *[Pause.]* Just call me C.W.

**Emcee:** Very well. C.W. it is. C.W., your area of expertise is peacemaking. More specifically, the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program.

**Knox:** That's correct.

- Emcee:** Very well. We're glad you're here. We have a panel of folks who would like to learn more about peacemaking and the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program. Are you ready to respond?
- Knox:** I am.
- Emcee:** Sue, let's begin with you. Would you pose the first question, please?
- Sue:** I'd be delighted. Why are Presbyterians concerned about peace? What motivates Presbyterian peacemakers?
- Knox:** Our faith. Presbyterians, like other Christians, believe that God desires peace and wholeness for all people and all creation. The Bible is filled with God's vision of peace and with God's invitation that we live into that vision by seeking peace and working for justice.
- Will:** What does the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program do?
- Knox:** The Presbyterian Peacemaking Program helps Presbyterians work for peace and justice as individuals, congregations, presbyteries, and on all levels of the church.
- Will:** A follow-up, if I may? [*WILL pauses. The other panelists indicate their willingness for WILL to go ahead.*] How does it do that?
- Knox:** In a variety of ways. Through conferences for people of all ages. By bringing peacemakers from other countries to the United States to tell their stories. By creating prayers and worship resources on issues of peace and justice. By sharing information on international situations of conflict. By providing study resources. By sharing information through a blog and email newsletters and a print newsletters. There are staff members who teach and preach and lead workshops across the church. And they provide opportunities for advocacy with our elected officials.
- Emcee:** [*Gently interrupts.*] Thank you, C.W.
- Knox:** You can learn more at [www.pcusa.org/peacemaking](http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking).
- Emcee:** It's clear that you know what the Peacemaking Program does. We need to move along. We are on a schedule here. Lou, your turn.
- Lou:** Thank you. So, tell me, C.W., is this Peacemaking Program only concerned with international issues?

- Knox:** It's concerned with international issues and with issues in this country. Racism, caring for creation, immigration issues, and domestic violence, the Peacemaking Program helps Presbyterians address these issues and more. See [www.pcusa.org/peacemaking](http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking).
- Ima:** So this peacemaking is only for old folks? [IMA *continues quickly*.] Not that you are old. You know about the Web, you can't be that old. But is peacemaking for kids, too?
- Knox:** That's OK. The Peacemaking program seeks to have something for everyone. They provide ideas and resources for working for peace and justice in families and together across generations. They work to involve young adults in peacemaking. Their conferences are often intergenerational. Peacemakers come in all ages. Children do important work for peace.
- Ima:** Like peer mediation?
- Knox:** That's right.
- Ima:** I do that at my school.
- Knox:** Great. And since you are Presbyterian, that makes you —
- Ima:** [IMA *interrupts*.] — a Presbyterian peacemaker!
- Sue:** I guess we all are.
- Lou:** That's true, in our own ways we all work for peace and justice.
- Will:** None of us can do everything; each of us can do our part.
- Emcee:** Excuse me, folks. The point is to ask C.W. questions, not to hold a group discussion.
- Knox:** It is important to celebrate what we do. Peacemaking is hard work. It's not something we just do once and say we are finished. It's a calling for a lifetime as we follow Jesus. It's a way of life for every time and season. So once in a while we need to stop and celebrate what we do and give thanks for each other. I am grateful for each of our panelists and their peacemaking ministries. We need each other.
- Emcee:** That makes sense, but we are running out of time. We can have one last question from our panel. Lou, I invite you to pose the final question.



**Lou:** Thank you. C.W., since we are all Presbyterian peacemakers here, can you tell us how long there have been Presbyterian peacemakers?

**Knox:** That's a hard one.

**Will:** After 532 episodes of *Meet the Presbyterians*, we finally stumped someone.

**Knox:** I'm not stumped. It's just a complicated answer with a number of levels.

**Sue:** Like what?

**Knox:** There have always been people who worked for peace and justice. Christians have been peacemakers ever since people have followed Jesus.

**Ima:** "Blessed are the peacemakers."

**Knox:** Exactly. And Presbyterians have worked for justice and peace ever since there have been Presbyterians.

**Will:** True. Our ancestor John Calvin encouraged people to get involved in public issues. That's one reason that I write for the paper.

**Knox:** But in 1980, the Presbyterian Church adopted a document called *Peacemaking: The Believers' Calling*. It grew out of concerns about the nuclear arms race and wars and threats of war. Presbyterians were also concerned about racism and civil rights, growing poverty and environmental damage. *Peacemaking: The Believers' Calling* recognized those concerns and that Presbyterians had long been involved in peacemaking. It called the church to make peacemaking an emphasis in its life and led to the creation of the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program.

**Lou:** So 2010 marks the thirtieth anniversary.

**Sue:** How will our congregation celebrate?

**Emcee:** Sue, that's a good question. And it is one we will continue to discuss. But for now, our time is up. Thank you, panelists. C.W., we thank you as well. You have provided us with much food for thought about the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program. Our conversations and our peacemaking efforts will continue. Thank you for being such a good audience! The peace of Christ be with you.

[*IMA, LOU, SUE, WILL, C.W., and the EMCEE greet each other briefly. ALL exit.*]

## ALTERNATE ENDING ONE

**This ending could be used if the congregation has plans to celebrate the anniversary.**

**Sue:** How will our congregation celebrate?

**Emcee:** Sue, that's a good question. We will celebrate the anniversary by \_\_\_\_\_ (HERE THE EMCEE DESCRIBES THE CONGREGATION'S PLANS AND INVITES CONGREGATION MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE. THEN THE EMCEE CONTINUES.) Our time is up. Thank you, panelists. C.W., we thank you as well. You have provided us with much food for thought about the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program. Our conversations and our peacemaking efforts will continue. Thank you for being such a good audience! The peace of Christ be with you.

[*IMA, LOU, SUE, WILL, C.W., and the EMCEE greet each other briefly. ALL exit.*]

## ALTERNATE ENDING TWO

**This ending could be used to allow members of the congregation to ask questions. The Emcee could ask for questions from the congregation, if the person playing C.W. is comfortable doing so. In the event that someone asks a question C.W. cannot answer, the response could be: "I don't know the answer to that one right now but I know where to get the answer. I will check with the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program and get back to you." Other panelists could also answer.**

**Knox:** But in 1980, the Presbyterian Church adopted a document called *Peacemaking: The Believers' Calling*. It grew out of concerns about the nuclear arms race and wars and threats of war. Presbyterians were also concerned about racism and civil rights, growing poverty and environmental damage. *Peacemaking: The Believers' Calling* recognized those concerns and that Presbyterians had long been involved in peacemaking. It called the church to make peacemaking an emphasis in its life and led to the creation of the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program.

**Emcee:** Thank you, panelists. We have a few moments left. Are there questions from the audience?

[*If there are questions, the EMCEE moderates, allowing the questions to be posed and C.W. to respond. If there are no questions or when it is time to end the skit, the EMCEE finishes using version 1 if the congregation does not have plans to celebrate the anniversary or version 2 if the congregation has plans made.*]

## VERSION 1

**Emcee:** Again, we thank our panelists. C.W., we thank you as well. You have provided us with much food for thought about the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program. Our time is up, but our conversations and our peacemaking efforts will continue. We hope that you will take part. Thank you for being such a good audience! The peace of Christ be with you.

*[IMA, LOU, SUE, WILL, C.W., and the EMCEE greet each other briefly. ALL exit.]*

## VERSION 2

**Emcee:** Again, we thank our panelists. C.W., we thank you as well. You have provided us with much food for thought about the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program. Our time is up, but our conversations and our peacemaking efforts will continue. We will celebrate the anniversary by \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_(HERE THE EMCEE DESCRIBES THE CONGREGATION'S PLANS AND INVITES CONGREGATION MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE. THEN THE EMCEE CONTINUES.) We hope that you will take part. Thank you for being such a good audience! The peace of Christ be with you.

*[IMA, LOU, SUE, WILL, C.W., and the EMCEE greet each other briefly. ALL exit.]*

**Sing Peace Throughout the Year**  
**A Skit for the 30th Anniversary of the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program**  
S. Thomas Niccolls

**Characters:** **Rev. Calvin Knox**, pastor of Geneva Presbyterian Church by the Deli;  
**Agnes Crescendo**, musician of Geneva Presbyterian Church by the Deli;  
**Irene Justicia**, peacemaking committee chairperson of Geneva  
Presbyterian Church by the Deli; **Narrator**

**Props:** **three chairs, papers, songbooks, *Carols with Justice*** (*Carols with Justice* is available from Alternatives for Simple Living. PO Box 2787, 5312 Morningside Ave., Sioux City, IA 51106. Web: [www.SimpleLiving.org](http://www.SimpleLiving.org). Phone: 800-821-6153. Email: [Alternatives@SimpleLiving.org](mailto:Alternatives@SimpleLiving.org). Cost is \$5.00 plus s/h.)

**NOTE:** **If the person playing Irene is not comfortable singing, Irene can recite the words of the hymns.**

[Place the three chairs in an arc in the center of the set. As the skit begins, CALVIN enters and sits in one of the chairs.]

**Narrator:** We take you to the study of the Rev. Calvin Knox, pastor of Geneva Presbyterian Church by the Deli. Rev. Knox has called a meeting with the church's musician, Agnes Crescendo.

[AGNES enters. CALVIN rises in greeting.]

**Calvin:** Thanks for coming, Agnes. Please sit down. [AGNES AND CALVIN sit.] I asked you here because Irene says she has some ideas for our hymn singing.

**Agnes:** Irene Justicia? I didn't know she even sings. Never joined our choir. I thought her thing was the peacemaking committee that supports the women's shelter and brings those International Peacemakers every year or so and promotes that special offering in the fall.

**Calvin:** Yes, but she went to a Peacemaking Seminar at Ghost Ranch and brought back some new ideas. Hold on, here she comes now.

[IRENE enters carrying papers, songbooks, Carols with Justice.]

- Irene:** Hi, Cal. Agnes, good to see you. [*She sits and starts talking enthusiastically.*] I wish you could have been with me at the Peacemaking Conference. You would have loved the music. You know this is the thirtieth anniversary of the Presbyterian statement, *Peacemaking: The Believers' Calling*. Our peacemaking committee thinks our congregation should celebrate peacemaking throughout the year. Peacemaking knows no season. It is always time to work for peace. The committee has some great ideas for how to incorporate peacemaking in our worship services. I picked up a copy of this book called *Carols with Justice*. It would be great to use. . .
- Calvin:** [*He interrupts gently.*] Whoa, slow down, Irene, you're running faster than a bear with a hunk of honeycomb.
- Agnes:** I've never heard of that book. What kind of carols are those?
- Irene:** Well, just look, Agnes. They are the same carols everyone loves, like "Silent Night" and "Joy to the World," but with an added zip of peacemaking. See, the first verse, the one we all know, is the same. But then there are some new verses that really connect Jesus' birth to our lives and the issues of peace and justice in our world. Like this new verse to "Away in the manger:" [*She opens the book and sings.*]
- When children are crying and mothers distressed,  
Because those in power with greed are obsessed.  
We seek to find justice, compassion for them  
Because of Christ Jesus born in Bethlehem.
- Calvin:** I don't know, Irene, people are pretty sentimental at Christmas. I'm not sure whether they would like us to change the carols.
- Agnes:** [*Reflecting.*] Well, at least they wouldn't have to learn a new tune. I always get static when we choose a hymn with a tune that nobody knows.
- Irene:** We've got to get people thinking about peacemaking in many different ways. Dealing with war and conflict is certainly part of it, but peace touches every aspect of our lives and it should do so during the whole year. In fact, I think we should have a peace hymn for each season of the church year. That would really emphasize that peacemaking is the believers' calling all year long — in every season.
- Calvin:** Well what would you suggest for Easter, Irene? Surely you don't think we should stop using "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today."

**Irene:** No way. But wouldn't it be neat to have a special verse? I'll bet our senior high group could write one. Think what an impression that would make if they led the congregation, especially if they could relate their new verse to something they are doing, like their Habitat for Humanity project. I can hear it now: "Homes of peace, we now will build, Alleluia! In them joy. . . [*She pauses to think of words.*] . . . shall be fulfilled. Alleluia!" You get the idea. That could bring the peace of the risen Christ into what's going on in our community right now. What do you think? [*She speaks to AGNES.*] Wouldn't the choir get a kick out of that?

**Agnes:** [*She is starting to get interested.*] Not a bad idea, Irene. Maybe I could even get the junior high bell choir excited about this.

**Calvin:** You make a good point, Irene. After all, we do peacemaking all year long. We should celebrate it all year long as well. The thirtieth Anniversary of *Peacemaking: The Believers' Calling* might be a time to start.

**Agnes:** What a nice way to mark the anniversary: by having special music during each season of the liturgical year.

**Irene:** You're so right. Look, here's another powerful Christmas verse for "O Little Town of Bethlehem." It speaks to what's happening in Bethlehem today: [*She sings.*]

No longer dreamless, Bethlehem, you bear the wounds of war;  
Can words of peace make conflict cease, when freedom is no more?  
No! Therefore work for justice, let walls thrust none apart.  
When all are free, the world may see, Christ born in every heart!

**Calvin:** Can you two continue to work on this idea?

**Irene:** We can.

**Agnes:** And we will. We'll find ways to involve others in helping us, too.

**Irene:** Let's meet next week.

**Agnes:** It's a plan. We'll make sure we sing for peace in every season.

[*They stand and leave. AGNES and IRENE in one direction, talking and making plans. CALVIN in the other direction.*]

*Peacemaking: The Believers' Calling* is available in a .pdf format at [www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/believers.pdf](http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/believers.pdf). Adobe Acrobat is needed to open the file.

Purchase *Peacemaking: The Believers' Calling* for \$1.50 plus s/h from Presbyterian Distribution Service. Call 800-524-2612 or go to [www.pcusa.org/marketplace/index.jsp](http://www.pcusa.org/marketplace/index.jsp). Specify item OGA88047.

Ideas for celebrating the thirtieth anniversary of the peacemaking emphasis in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program include:

- affirming or reaffirming the Commitment to Peacemaking
- studying *Peacemaking: The Believers' Calling*
- honoring congregational peacemakers
- highlighting congregational peacemaking ministries
- envisioning future peacemaking ministries for the congregation
- weaving peacemaking stories and themes into worship services on a regular basis
- holding special worship services
- holding special events such as a potluck or a study

*The Church is faithful to Christ when it is engaged in peacemaking.*

*The Church is obedient to Christ when it nurtures and equips God's people as peacemakers.*

*The Church bears witness to Christ when it nourishes the moral life of the nation for the sake of peace in our world.*

Peacemaking: The Believers' Calling  
192<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly (1980)  
United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

*God redeems history; we do not. We must act as consistently with that redemption as our light and our power permit.*

Peacemaking: The Believers' Calling  
192<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly (1980)  
United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America



The Presbyterian Peacemaking Program  
is a ministry  
of the Compassion, Peace and Justice Ministry  
of the General Assembly Mission Council  
of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Presbyterian Peacemaking Program, 100 Witherspoon Street, Louisville, KY 40202  
1-888-728-7228, ext. 8700

This resource is available at:

[www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/pubs/pubs.htm#web](http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/pubs/pubs.htm#web)