Dear Members,

As we rush into the new year of school and church programs, it’s easy to lose sight of the peace Christ promises. We get busy, overworked, and anxious. Beyond the stress and difficulty of our own lives, we look around and see a world marked by violence around the corner and across the globe. That is why I’m grateful for the *Season of Peace* we are in, which culminates with the Peace & Global Witness offering on World Communion Sunday. The ministries of peacemaking and reconciliation witness to the Prince of Peace. It is good to be reminded that, with all the discord, pain, and conflict in our communities and in the world, we serve a God who promises harmony and responds to violence with reconciliation and peace.

This is why we give to the Peace & Global Witness offering. We give because we know that every level of society is in need of Christ’s peace. From our congregation, where we retain 25 percent of this offering to support [*???*]and its important role in our community; to the region, where 25 percent is retained by mid councils to support peacemaking efforts being pursued, together with our neighboring congregations; and to the ends of the earth, where the remaining 50 percent is deployed by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to join the peacemaking efforts of church partners all over the globe. We join these monetary gifts with our prayers for peace and our work for justice.

We will hear more about this important work in the weeks leading up to the offering. Examples of this ministry will be shared in the minutes for mission, and the bulletin inserts will help us think about the many components of violence and conflict, here at home as well as with our sisters and brothers living far from us. I would like to invite you to volunteer to read one of the Minutes for Mission aloud in a service, or consider writing one about our local ministries to share with the congregation.

You are invited to visit the Peace & Global Witness website ([www.presbyterianmission.org/peace-global](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/peace-global)) to find out more information on how your support of this offering helps. As a community of faith, we want to deepen our commitment to peacemaking so that it becomes a visible and profound witness to our community. Just as the doves on this year’s materials Just as the doves on this year’s materials only create a world of peace when all join together, so the world calls all of us to give our gift and play our part. I challenge each of us to consider how we might increase our witness, and increase our giving to the Peace & Global Witness Offering. I pray that the God of Peace might open the generosity in our hearts to join with Christians all over the country on World Communion Sunday, October 2, in response to the Peace & Global Witness Offering.

Yours in the Peace of Christ,

Rev. ­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_