

Does Peacebuilding Need Peace Theology? A Mennonite-Catholic Dialogue

**University of Notre Dame
Geddes Hall
October 19, 2019**

Organized by the
Mennonite-Catholic Theological Colloquium, a project of Bridgefolk
Hosted by the
McGrath Institute for Church Life, University of Notre Dame
Co-sponsored by the
Catholic Peacebuilding Network

The morality of war and peace is a perennial matter for ecumenical dialogue between Mennonites and Catholics. Enlivening that dialogue in recent decades has been a quiet but remarkable collaboration between members of the two churches, both through NGOs such as Mennonite Central Committee and Catholic Relief Services, and among academics developing the field of peacebuilding at schools such as the University of Notre Dame and Eastern Mennonite University.

This one-day colloquium will trace the sources and significance of Mennonite-Catholic collaboration in peacebuilding, as well as its future prospects: As both Mennonite and Catholics in the field become more skillful practitioners and more sophisticated social-science researchers, what do they owe to the peace theologies that led to their historic collaboration? And what should be the contribution of theology in the future?

Schedule

8:30 Light Refreshments

9:00 Introduction and Opening Session:
A Retrospective View
Moderator: Margaret Pfeil

Reflection on the history of Catholic-Mennonite joint peacebuilding efforts and why this remarkable convergence took place in recent decades, with a view to extending that legacy of collaboration into the future.

Presenters:
Reina Neufeldt
Conrad Grebel University, Canada

Drew Christiansen, S.J.
Georgetown University

10:30 Break

10:45 Session 2: An Introspective View
Moderator: Darrin Snyder Belousek

Reflection on the theology of peacebuilding, with a view toward articulating a shared Christian practice of peacebuilding for the wider ecumenical community by drawing from our two respective confessional traditions.

Presenters:

Marie Dennis
Pax Christi International

Cesar Moya
Corporación Universitaria Reformada, Colombia

12:15 Lunch (on your own)

1:45 Session 3: A Prospective View
Moderator: Gerald Schlabach

Exploration of present and approaching problems for which Mennonite-Catholic collaborative peacebuilding would be especially appropriate or beneficial.

Presenters:

André Gingrich Stoner
Faith in Indiana; Interchurch Relations for Mennonite Church USA (former)

Daniel Philpott
University of Notre Dame

3:15 Break

3:30- Final Session: Plenary Discussion
4:30