



Peace Camp  
2022  
West Side Christian Church  
Topeka, Kansas

**Hey, kids!** Come play, snack, create and learn at a half-day camp from 8:15 a.m. - noon, on July 11 - 15 at West Side Christian Church, located at 432 SW Lindenwood Ave.

Peace Camp 2022: Circles of Peace, held in partnership with Topeka Center for Peace & Justice—where kids who have completed grades K-5 play to learn!

**Peace for Me:** Special labyrinth activity

**Peace for Us:** Field trip to Brown v. Board of Education museum

**Peace for Others:** Lessons from a professional dog trainer

**Peace for the Earth:** Conversations with a beekeeper

**Peace for Everyone:** Putting it all together!

Registration is \$30 and includes a snack, lunch, and a T-shirt. Scholarships are available: email [office@westsidedisciples.org](mailto:office@westsidedisciples.org).

**Register today!:** [www.westsidedisciples.org](http://www.westsidedisciples.org)

**Call for info:** The church office at 785-234-0469 with questions or for help with registration.

**Check out last year's video!** [www.vimeo.com/677525953](http://www.vimeo.com/677525953)

We look forward to seeing you!



*Nancy Kelley*

**Restorative Justice & Mediation Coordinator**

A Neighborhood Accountability Board (NAB) is a form of Restorative Practice that includes the community when harm has occurred.

Neighborhood Accountability Boards, or NAB restorative justice processes have flexibility. They always include the person who has done harm, a facilitator, and 1-2 community members. NABs may sometimes include the person who was harmed, but NABs do not have to. If a victim chooses not to engage in the process, the one who has offended can still come to understand the impact of their actions. The community members become the voice of the one who was harmed. They ask questions and offer perspectives that the victim would have asked. They may also ask how others in the community were impacted--family members, friends, neighbors. As with any restorative justice practice, the ultimate goal is to make the situation as right as possible.

For many years the Topeka Center for Peace and Justice has been providing mediation for juveniles who have committed misdemeanor crimes in the community. The mediations have been facilitated by certified co-mediators and have been very successful in curbing recidivism.

Often when misdemeanors occur, the juvenile doesn't have contact with the victim so may not realize how the actions have harmed not only the victim but the community. The juvenile may have to pay restitution or participate in community service, but they seldom have the opportunity to hear about the impact of their actions.

Restorative Justice means that the juvenile is held accountable for the harm they have done to the victim and to the community in general. Two or three trained NAB volunteers attend the mediation, to listen to the juvenile tell what happened, listen to the victim if one is present, and to explain the harm that was caused to everyone, including the community. The NAB has an active role in assisting the victim and the offender in developing a plan, or agreement, that will repair harm and help the parties move forward as a stronger, safer community. Those community volunteers assist in the ultimate goal of making the situation as right as possible.

A training for community volunteers who want to serve on the NAB will be this summer. It will be live at the Center and be provided by Nancy Kelley, Restorative Practice Coordinator. Look for more details about the work of NAB's and registration information on our website soon.



*Carl Frazier*

***Interim Executive Director and Board Chair***

**Topeka Center for Peace and Justice (TCPJ) Mission:** *To promote justice and peace through education and action for social change by working with individuals and organizations in Topeka.*

Hello TPJC family and friends,

It's hard to believe how hot it is outside; the changes in the weather have happened rapidly. Just like the weather, we are changing at the Center as we've been revisiting processes including financial reporting, programs, and values in relationships. We realize there are limited things we can accomplish unless we have the right relationships, and we value all our relationships including those with the Topeka Police Chief, Shawnee County District Attorney, City Council members, and community leaders. Through these and other relationships, we hope to build the best programs to bring peace and justice into our Center and community. Some of these programs include mediation, restorative justice, and Neighborhood Accountability Boards.

As I hear about so many of our youth who have died by suicide or other gun-related deaths, I am heartbroken. Recently, the Center was asked to become involved again with the Strategies Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE) program, on a limited basis. I believe it is time for community leaders to determine how we can better eliminate guns from the hands of our youth. These guns shouldn't be in our neighborhoods or in our places of worship.

Additionally, the Center was asked to assist with the Topeka Ukraine Refugees Committee. As our representative on the committee, I was asked to help with transportation and was able to do so through my role as the Moderator of the American Baptist Central NE Kansas churches. I was able to connect with church pastors and obtain a van to transport two refugee families from Mexico to Topeka. Since that initial transport, we have welcomed other Ukraine families to Topeka. TPJC has opened a bank account for donations for the Ukrainian families and you are able to donate by contacting us at the TPJC office - 785.232.4388. This is one of many ways we are working alongside individuals to bring peace into the lives of people.

Last, but certainly not least, we are excited to bring the Peace Party back this year! We have begun to look at locations and are in need of volunteers and contributions for a successful event. The last Peace Party, two years ago, was a great success, but I know we can make this year the best yet!

We are here, and we are excited about our goal to make people's lives better.

God bless!

## **LIBERTY BELL AWARD FROM THE TOPEKA BAR ASSOCIATION**

*Written by Carol Christensen, Board Secretary*

The Topeka Bar Association awarded the Topeka Center for Peace and Justice (TCPJ) its annual Liberty Bell Award on May 6 at a special luncheon in the Jayhawk Tower. The award is given to a non-lawyer individual or organization to recognize community service that has “strengthened the American system of freedom under the law.” In the Center’s case, it was recognized especially for its mediation and restorative justice work which “stimulate a deeper sense of individual responsibility so that citizens recognize their duties, as well as their rights.” The Center was nominated for the award by Angel Zimmerman, a Topeka attorney who was introduced to the Center when she attended a Peace Party several years ago.

Several TCPJ board members and staff members filled a table at the awards luncheon. Since the board chair, Pastor Carl Frazier, was out-of-town, Pastor Donna Gilchrist, the vice-chair of the board, accepted the award and spoke briefly on behalf of the Center. After describing the work of TCPJ, she invited local attorneys and others in attendance to support the work of the Center. She also suggested, as Angel Zimmerman had done in her earlier introductory remarks, that there may be future opportunities for the Topeka Bar Association and the Topeka Center for Peace and Justice to collaborate, since the two organizations share some important common goals.



Nancy Kelley, Restorative Justice & Mediation Coordinator; Lou Saadi, Board Treasurer; Amanda Sayler, Office & Fund Development Coordinator; Angel Zimmerman; Donna Gilchrist, Board Vice-Chair; Carol Christensen, Board Secretary; Glenda Overstreet-Vaughn, Board Member

## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CONFERENCE

Nancy Kelley, Restorative Practice Coordinator, will attend the 8th annual National Association of Community and Restorative Justice (NACRJ) conference on July 6-9 in Chicago. Sheryl Wilson, the executive director of Kansas Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (KIPCOR) is the president of NACRJ. Through her position at KIPCOR, Wilson has worked with TCPJ on many occasions and has trained school teachers in the Topeka area.



The Topeka Center for Peace & Justice provides an interpreter for victim/offender mediations. A recent mediation was facilitated by Nancy Kelley, mediator, Tonya Recklefs, co-mediator, and Jose Hercules, interpreter.

### Current TCPJ Board Members

Carl Frazier, New Hope and Love Community Church, Chair  
Rev. Donna Gilchrist, West Side Christian Church, Vice Chair  
Carol Christensen, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Secretary  
Lou Saadi, Islamic Center of Topeka, Treasurer  
Virginia Barnes  
Lori Brown, Baha'i Community  
Rebecca Morrisey  
Rev. Clarence Newton, New Life Baptist Church  
Dr. Glenda Overstreet-Vaughn  
Esther Potts, Temple Beth Sholom  
Megan Waltner