

# Faith Organizations Panel

Friday, October 20, 2017

10:30 a.m. **Plenary: *Genesis and Persistence in Advocacy for Peace – Faith Organizations***  
(Moderator: John D. Roth)  
American Friends Service Committee (Don Davis), Mennonite Central Committee  
(James Juhnke), Quakers in Britain (Jane Dawson), Fellowship of Reconciliation (Max Hess)

## American Friends Service Committee

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) was founded in 1917 during World War I to give young conscientious objectors ways to serve without joining the military or taking lives. They drove ambulances, ministered to the wounded, and stayed on in Europe after the armistice to rebuild war-ravaged communities. Following the war, volunteers and staff realized “America has not learned the lesson of the war, nor has our Society learned it.” Instead of disbanding, they came to understand that the seeds of conflict were fueled by racial and economic inequities. This led to formal incorporation with a wider focus on race relations, poverty and the human cost of war.



**Don Davis** has been an archivist for the American Friends Service Committee since 2006. He is responsible for the collecting, organizing and preservation the records of the AFSC. He works with scholars and students from all over the world who utilize the AFSC records in their research. He has presented numerous talks on the history of the AFSC to U.S. and international audiences.

## British Friends

In 1916 Britain was the first country to recognize the legal right to conscientious objection to military service. British Quakers were involved in this historic legislation and the events that led up to it. In Britain white feathers were given to humiliate men who stood up to public opinion and refused to fight. What was it like to be a CO in Britain 100 years ago? Hidden diaries and letters of conscientious objectors tell that story and their effect on Friends in Britain.



**Jane Dawson** is a Quaker and lives in London. She is the Advocacy and Public Relationships Lead for Quakers in Britain. Among other things, she is responsible for the Quaker political and media voice, as well as their print and online presence. Jane devised the White Feather Diaries and leads on the WWI project for Quakers in Britain.

## Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR)

An ecumenical conference in Switzerland concluded early when WWI broke out. Two departing conference-goers—an English Quaker and a German Lutheran—pledged to work for peace. FOR was founded later that year in Cambridge, England. The U.S. branch was founded in November 1915 in Garden City, N.Y. FOR has since become an interfaith and international movement with branches and affiliates in over 50 countries. FOR has led nonviolent resistance in Ferguson, Baltimore, Hartford, Minnesota . . . and, most recently, Charlottesville and is currently launching a reparations campaign.



**Max Hess** is interim executive director of FOR-USA and previously served on the FOR-USA's National Council. He serves on the vestry of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, DeKalb County, Ga., and comes to the interim position from the Atlanta law firm of TAYLOR | FEIL | HARPER | LUMSDEN | HESS.

## Mennonite Central Committee

Formed in the aftermath of WWI and the Russian revolution, Mennonite Central Committee's (MCC) first mission was to provide food and relief to a people traumatized by hunger and war. Shaped by this experience, MCC's century of engagement with the world has been characterized by relief, sustainable development and peacemaking. MCC was begun by a people whose pacifist faith had weathered centuries of hardship and migration in order to live out their commitment to the gospel of peace expressed in the life of Jesus. This commitment still guides MCC's mission today.



**James Juhnke** was born and raised on a Kansas wheat farm. He graduated from Bethel College and earned a Ph.D. degree in history from Indiana University. He taught at Bethel College from 1966-2002. James worked overseas in Germany, Botswana and China. He has written books on American peace history and Mennonite denominational history.