

# YOU CAN'T **STOP** THE RIVER NONVIOLENT COMMUNITY CHANGE

spiritual grounding  
God's power dignity for all people  
strategy for change  
social justice movements  
inspired leadership  
active nonviolence  
spirit the way of jesus  
prophetic action

**OCTOBER 28 - 31, 2010**

**THURS: 6 PM - SUN: 6 PM** HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

- Build skills and confidence for community leadership
- Gain strength for community change through prayer, worship, and scripture study
- Explore the history & philosophy of nonviolence
- Reflect on the experience and exchange stories and wisdom with others
- With God's help, prepare plans for what happens next in your community

*On Earth Peace provides skills, support, and a spiritual foundation to face violence with active nonviolence.*

PO Box 188, New Windsor, MD | [river.onearthpeace.org](http://river.onearthpeace.org)



# YOU CAN'T STOP THE RIVER

## NONVIOLENT COMMUNITY CHANGE

### WHY "YOU CAN'T STOP THE RIVER?"

Many congregations are ready to take a next step in community outreach and leadership for justice and peace, but aren't sure what's next. What does proactive, hopeful action look like? Efforts to improve the community - reduce violence - build peace - all too often dry up or get stopped along the way.

### WHO SHOULD COME?

Ideal participants are people ready to move into action when they get home. They come from groups that feel urgent about addressing violence and injustice with the innocence of doves and the cunning of serpents.

*We recommend* that you register with a team of 2-4 people from your faith or community group, or from the same neighborhood or community.

Teams are encouraged and will be formed if individuals wish to register without a team connection. During the training, teams will work together to apply and test what we are learning to their situations at home.

What we are aiming for: Many individuals attend training events only to arrive home with little support or accountability for implementing their new skills and ideas. We wish to raise the probability that the energy and information generated at the workshop will have a ripple effect in the community, yielding action for reducing violence.

### WHAT TO EXPECT

The weekend will be highly participatory. The seminar includes activities focused on getting rooted in your community, understanding the forces at play, building a sense of biblical/theological aspects of the work to reduce violence and increase peace, and examining change efforts in a strategic perspective (what kinds of things need to happen first – second – third; how to get others excited and involved, etc). Participants will examine what it takes to develop a specific, focused effort for nonviolent change, connecting what we learn to experiences back at home. Build on what you know, practice spirituality + skills + strategy, and take your community ministries to the next level!

A common frame of reference for community change will come from exploring the Principles and Steps for nonviolent community reconciliation used in the U.S. Civil Rights Movement. Time will be provided to plan for proactive, hopeful action when you get home.

Our time will combine the practical and the prayerful. While together, we will practice prayer and other activities designed to help build spiritual power for change. As Christians, we are at our best when we are ourselves in powerful contact with God's healing, and can bring that power to our community work.

### WORKSHOP SETTING

The Harrisburg First Church of the Brethren has been serving the South Allison Hill neighborhood of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania since its founding in 1896. This neighborhood has the highest density between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh of low-income single parent families, with many children and youth. This ethnically diverse neighborhood is a constantly changing community. The multicultural mix has seen Cubans, Mexicans and Puerto Ricans added to the African American and European American neighborhood. First Church, with its two Sunday worship services, weekday prayer meetings, and its many community ministries, serves and seeks to reach this neighborhood with the message of God's love in Jesus Christ.

### LOGISTICS

**Housing & Food:** Limited options are available for simple home-stays; several local hotels and hospitality houses are available for \$30-\$65/night depending on the accommodation. Meals will be provided Thursday supper-Sunday lunch, including a vegetarian option.

**Cost:** \$100 registration + \$50 materials fee, and a free will offering will be taken up while we are together. Participants are responsible for their own travel costs. No one will be turned away because of funds; we are committed to making this training available and building grassroots capacity.

**To register:** Download application form from [river.onearthpeace.org](http://river.onearthpeace.org)

**Registration deadline:** September 30, 2010

For more information and to ask any questions, please visit the website or contact:

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