

Bethany Peace Essay Contest

made possible by the Jennie Calhoun Baker Endowment



BETHANY
Theological Seminary

Inspired and Inspiring Peacemakers

We invite contestants to write an essay in a public voice on a person they consider an inspired and inspiring peacemaker. The theme of the 2016 Bethany contest is intended to be inclusive and expansive in terms of possible topics. Contestants may essay on a familiar peacemaker like Martin Luther King or Wangari Maathai or cover lesser known figures such as Ted Studebaker, Leymah Gbowee, or Ella Baker. We also welcome writing on peacemakers whose stories have not yet been told.

Words like *inspired* and *inspiring* have fallen out of fashion for many in an era of cynicism and the politics of realism. Yet we remain fascinated by the spiritual and social sources of *inspiration*. How and why are some individuals inspired and inspiring? The World Council of Churches' *An Ecumenical Call to Just Peace* has defined peace building and seeking cultures of peace under four broad categories: peace in the community, peace with the earth, peace in the marketplace, and peace among the peoples. We encourage essays on individuals whose vision, voice, and work inspire peacemaking in any or all of these categories.

Prizes:

First prize - \$2000

Second prize - \$1000

Third prize - \$500

Deadline: January 25, 2016

Guidelines

The contest is open to full- and part-time high school, college, seminary, and graduate school students who are fully enrolled in a program en route to a degree. International, ecumenical, and interfaith students are encouraged to write. Those who have won a prize in a previous contest may not submit an essay. Essays will not be returned to the participants. **Submissions will be accepted between January 1 and January 25, 2016.**

All entries must follow these guidelines to be considered for the competition:

- Limit one entry per person.
- Essays must be 1500-2500 words and double spaced. A word count should be included at the end of the essay.
- All essays must be written in English.
- Pages should be numbered, and the title of the essay should appear on every page.
- Contestants must use citations when referencing or quoting someone else's work. Citations must be consistent but do not need to follow a specific form.
- Essays must be previously unpublished (including websites and blogs).
- The writer's name should not appear on the essay. Judging will be done blindly, and each essay will be identified by the title on each numbered page.
- Essays must be submitted as a .pdf and uploaded to www.bethanyseminary.edu/peace-essay.

Winners

Winners will be alerted by e-mail or telephone before the end of February 2016. After notification, each winner must complete proper tax documentation before receiving a monetary prize. If the winner cannot be contacted, s/he forfeits the prize.

Winners will be announced to the public via press release from Bethany Theological Seminary. Winning essays will be published.

To submit an essay as a hard copy, contact Bekah Houff, coordinator of outreach programs: 765-983-1809 or houffre@bethanyseminary.edu. Please also contact Bekah with any additional questions.