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Seeking Cultures of Peace

A PEACE CHURCH CONVERSATION

Edited by
Fernando Enns, Scott Holland, and Ann Riggs
Foreword by Samuel Kobia

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Contents

Foreword by Dr. Samuel Kobia 9

Editors' Preface by Ann Riggs, Scott Holland, Fernando Enns 11

I. INTRODUCTION: DISCERNING IN ECUMENICAL CONTEXT

1 Remarks to the Bienenberg Consultation • 19

Konrad Raiser

2 Space for Theological Reflection on Being (Peace-)Church • 29

Fernando Enns

II. INTERPRETING GLOBALIZATION: QUESTIONS OF POWER

3 Globalization and Claiming Truth • 45

Neal Blough

4 The "Disavowal of Constantine"
in the Age of Global Capital • 62

Peter Dula

5 The Power of Historiography • 78

Alfred Neufeld

III. THE GOSPEL OF PEACE IN CONTEXT: SHAPING IDENTITY

6 Inculturation: Building on the Cultures of Our Past • 97

Ann K. Riggs

- 7 Atonement and the Gospel of Peace • 109
J. Denny Weaver
- 8 Reconciliation or Pacifism? The Nigerian Experience • 124
Patrick K. Bugu
- 9 The Gospel of Peace and the Violence of God • 132
Scott Holland
- 10 Being a Peace Church in the Colombian Context • 147
Alix Lozano

IV. BUILDING CULTURES OF JUST PEACE

- 11 Did Jesus Love His Enemies? • 157
Daniel W. Ulrich
- 12 Paul as Mediator • 171
Moisés Mayordomo
- 13 A Feminist Theological Perspective on
 Conflict Transformation • 182
Debbie Roberts
- 14 "The Sacred Nature of Places":
 Understanding Land as a Contribution to Peacebuilding • 194
Elaine Bishop
- 15 Intercessors for Reunification:
 Toward a Peacebuilding Church in Korea • 206
Sang Gyoo Lee
- 16 Peace in the Tiger's Mouth • 215
Alastair McIntosh

APPENDICES

- HPC Epistle from Bienenberg* 227
- Just Peacemaking: Toward an Ecumenical Ethical
 Approach from the Perspective of the Historic Peace Churches* 232
- Theology and Culture: Peacemaking in a Globalized World* 244
- The Index* 249
- The Contributors* 257
- The Editors* 260

Foreword

The Decade to Overcome Violence (DOV) calls upon churches to engage in theological reflection to overcome the spirit, logic, and practice of violence. Theological conversation is one of the specific activities the DOV invites the churches to engage in.

This is precisely what the Historic Peace Churches were doing when they met at Bienenberg, Switzerland, in June 2001, just six months into the Decade. The World Council of Churches warmly welcomes such initiatives, and I am happy that the contents of this particular conversation are documented in the present collection of essays. Dr. Konrad Raiser's introductory remarks actually summarize the unfolding process around the questions of war, peace, and nonviolence in the ecumenical movement. This alone is a contribution worthy to be shared widely.

For as long as they have existed, the Historic Peace Churches have presented a challenge to the mainline churches to consider the biblical call to active peacemaking as taking primacy over national, institutional, or religious drives for power or even survival. Some of the motivations and implications of this challenge are documented in this book, and they are as pertinent today as in earlier centuries.

"Churches Seeking Reconciliation and Peace" is the Decade to Overcome Violence theme. The World Council of Churches has from the start emphasized the pertinence of the Historic Peace Churches in the conciliar process within the ecumenical movement. The title of this book, *Seeking Cultures of Peace*, gently points to the UN-Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence for the Children of the World, to which the DOV is running in complementary parallel.

That process of seeking is a process which we are to engage in together, both as different traditions within the ecumenical movement,