

South Sudanese Diaspora Network for Reconciliation and Peace (SSDNRP)



In Collaboration With:
**The American Friends of the Episcopal Church of the Sudans
(AFRECS)**
Invites you to join us
For:

UNITING THE DIASPORA TO ACT FOR PEACE Conference

June 2019

Dear friend,

We would like to invite you to join us for a time of dialogue and community building organized by the South Sudan Diaspora Network for Reconciliation and Peace (SSDNRP) in Lexington, Virginia, August 30 -September 1, 2019, as we make this year the beginning of acting towards peace.

On May 4-6, 2018, a group of South Sudanese gathered in Denver, Colorado at the invitation of the American Friends of the Episcopal Church of the Sudans (AFRECS) under the theme: Strengthening the Peacemakers: South Sudan and Diaspora.

That event brought together many participants from the communities across the US, UK, Canada and from the South Sudan church leaders and community organizers. The participants explored obstacles and foundations for reconciliation and peace-building and realized their need for a stronger and more unified voice. The SSDNRP was born out of this gathering. We invite you to come to:

1. Foster dialogue among the South Sudanese Diaspora community, to reach a better standing ground for forgiveness, healing and reconciliation, in which all grievances are genuinely addressed, understood and resolved for a just peace for all.
2. Promote the culture of peace through the education of South Sudanese children and work together for a better future.

On Sunday, September 1 we will be celebrating the Feast Day of Marc Nikkel at the 10:30 worship service at Grace Episcopal Church. The Rev. Marc Nikkel was an American Episcopal priest, artist, author, teacher and missionary to the Sudan. The Rev. Richard Jones, founder of AFRECS and board member will be our preacher that day. The service will include South Sudanese musicians and a luncheon after the service provided by South Sudanese women from Roanoke, Virginia.

Grace Episcopal Church has been generous in helping us organize this conference, and in hosting us, and will be arranging free housing in private homes for all conference participants. You will find below the link for registration. **PLEASE REGISTER** as soon as possible so Ms. Sharon Massie, Program Director at Grace Episcopal Church, can coordinate housing arrangements.

Here's the registration link [REGISTER HERE](#)

Check-in for the conference starts at 11:00 AM on Friday, August 30. The conference will begin that day at 2:00 PM. The conference will end at 8 PM on Sunday, September 1.

The registration fee for this event is \$50. After August 1 the fee for late registration goes up to \$75. Free housing will not be available after Friday, August 16.

Make your travel arrangements EARLY as this is a very busy travel weekend.

All airports and train service are 1 hour away from Lexington.

Airports closest to Lexington, Virginia are Roanoke (ROA) Lynchburg (LYH) Charlottesville (CHO) Weyers Cave (SHD). Train service by Amtrak is available to Charlottesville (CVS) and Lynchburg (LYH)

Grace Episcopal Church will arrange transportation from and to Roanoke (ROA) Lynchburg (LYH) Charlottesville (CHO) Weyers Cave (SHD) and the Amtrak stations in to Charlottesville (CVS) and Lynchburg (LYH) on Friday, August 30 and Monday, September 1.

Trish Knighton of Martin Travel will be pleased to assist our conference attendees if needed. Contact Trish Knighton at: Trish@martintravel.com, or at Martin Travel: 540 951-7854. There is a \$35.00 fee to book travel through Martin Travel.

To assist customers Trish would need the following information:
Traveler's name, gender (required by airlines), number on their government ID, cell phone number, and the airport they are traveling from.

We thank you and look forward to hearing from you via the above link. Please let us know if you have any questions. You can reach us at: ssdnrp@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

SSDNRP

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- 2- Ms. Sarah Cleto Rial, Co-convener | Global Partnership for Peace in South Sudan
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- 5- Dr. Isaac K. Gang/ Representative in the USA of the SPLM-IO - [601-329-1399](tel:601-329-1399)/
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- 6- Mr. Noel Otuk Kulang/ African Sudanese Fellowship, Cornerstone Evangelical Free Church - - [703-638-9970](tel:703-638-9970)/ n.kulang@gmail.com
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