



# TELOS PEACEMAKERS COHORT

CLASS OF 2023

# TELOS' MISSION

*Telos forms communities of American peacemakers across lines of difference, and equips them to help reconcile seemingly intractable conflicts at home and abroad. We envision a world in which leaders and their communities claim the requisite drive, expertise, and relationships to effectively and relentlessly wage peace.*

## WHAT IS PEACEMAKING?

Peacemaking is the way we pursue justice in the world that is oriented toward healing and reconciliation. It presumes that while conflict and discord are inevitable, disagreement and difference can help guide us to a world in which we can all flourish.

Peacemaking is a courageous and radical commitment to put our deepest values into lived practice. As peacemakers we choose to live into a story greater than ourselves or our community alone. We believe we cannot deny our neighbor what we would want for ourselves. We also recognize that we all have a role to play, and we do this by committing to a deeply personal, transformative journey—one that can help us co-create a different and better reality for all.

When properly applied, the principles and practices of peacemaking can help us address interpersonal and international conflict, guiding us to a better place on issues as varied as war, human and civil rights, entrenched oppression, the environment, local and global security, governance, human migration, and inequality.



# WHAT WE DO

1

## IMMERSE

Through the power of lived experience, we inspire and onboard targeted cohorts of leader peacemakers to deep dive into the realities of conflict or post-conflict spaces, providing an unparalleled opportunity for experiential learning and relationship development. To this day, we've led more than 110 delegations of American leaders to Israel and Palestine.

2

## TRAIN

Telos equips a practitioner network of peacemakers across the United States. We gather issue-area experts and international peacemakers on regular virtual events to train our network in the work of peacemaking, covering the issues that matter and the skills that guide us in action.

3

## ACT

We support our network to participate in organizing work and curated conversations on peacemaking principles and pressing issues. Our gatherings are key to effective movement building and sustained network engagement. Telos' advocacy arm engages our leaders on the most pressing issues of conflict, setting tangible policy goals that shape on-the-ground realities.

4

## IMPACT

Our unique theory of change has sparked a movement transforming America's relationship to the Holy Land and conflict worldwide. Implicated leaders and communities are joining forces with Telos, and the growing movement of peacemakers is shifting culture and policy toward a vision of mutual flourishing for all. Over the past 13 years, the Telos network has grown to be thousands strong.



# PEACEMAKERS COHORT 2023

*The Telos Peacemakers Cohort brings together a select group of American Christian leaders, offering them unique immersive experiences, in-depth teaching from paradigm-shifting peacemakers, theologians and teachers from around the world, and space for candid conversations.*

## WHAT'S OFFERED?

- Regular virtual meetings;
- Immersive trip to the American South;
- Holy Land Pilgrimage;
- Peacemaker Closing Retreat;
- Spiritual Direction
- A close cohort of peers

### VIRTUAL MEETINGS (90 MIN, OVER ZOOM)

Dates: Dates TBD (6 meetings b/w January - May)

Topics to be considered:

- The Principles and Practices of Peacemaking
- Discipleship in a Divided Age
- The Church and Racial Justice
- The Church and Antisemitism
- The Church and Christian Zionism
- Christian Nationalism



# TRIP 1: ISRAEL/PALESTINE

## IMMERSIVE TRIP #1 - HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

Dates: January 25-February 5, 2023

This pilgrimage has the power to be one of the most transformational experiences of your life. It will give you the opportunity to not only walk in Jesus' footsteps, but to enter into the lives of the people of modern Israel and Palestine. While grappling with one of the worlds' thorniest conflicts, you'll witness both the beauty and suffering of the Holy Land.

The cohort will meet Israelis and Palestinians; religious, political, and military leaders; and human rights and social justice activists. We will walk the halls of Yad Vashem, the Israeli Holocaust memorial and museum; share a Shabbat meal with Jewish families; visit a refugee camp; fellowship with the indigenous Palestinian Christian community; learn about Islam and Muslim connections to Jerusalem; and meet with Israeli settlers living in the West Bank.

Together we will feast on delicious cuisine, contemplate beautiful scenery, visit ancient sacred sites, and learn from Israelis and Palestinians—Jews, Christians and Muslims—who are pursuing justice, peacemaking and reconciliation.



# TRIPS 2 & 3: REStORY US, RETREAT

## **IMMERSIVE TRIP #2 - REStORY US; PILGRIMAGE TO THE AMERICAN SOUTH**

Dates: March 22-29, 2022

Americans hold in common the aspiration for “Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness” for all. But our widely differing pasts and presents create multiple American narratives. The cohort will journey together to the US South for an pilgrimage that will both uncover this shared past and build a new future.

We will join conversations with Indigenous communities along Louisiana’s bayous, and with modern-day civil rights leaders in Selma. We will engage spiritually with faith leaders in Jackson, Mississippi, and meet with educators and entrepreneurs in New Orleans and Montgomery. You will not only be inspired from meaningful encounters with places and people prominent in the Civil Rights Movement, but also enjoy a deep appreciation for homegrown American music and cuisine.

This pilgrimage will provide you with the tools, relationships, and inspiration to wrestle with a more complete telling of the American story. With it, we can better work to heal the racial injustice, inequality, and political polarization that plague our nation today.

## **PEACEMAKER CLOSING RETREAT**

Dates: May 31-June 3, 2023

The cohort will gather in a beautiful retreat space to meet together for a time of reflection and contemplation. It will provide an opportunity to help plan ways in which you can implement peacemaking into your community.



# KEY PARTNERS

## **AINKA JACKSON**

*Executive Director, Selma Center for Nonviolence, Truth & Reconciliation*



Ainka Jackson is the founding Executive Director of the Selma Center for Nonviolence, Truth and Reconciliation, which is committed to bridging divides and building the Beloved Community. She was previously the Metro Guardian ad Litem for the Metro Nashville Public Defender's Office, Juvenile Division. Jackson has presented at numerous conferences and institutions including, on truancy and the school to prison pipeline at the annual Samuel Dewitt Proctor Institute for Child Advocate Ministry and spoke at the United Nations in Switzerland about economic and racial equity.

## **ROBI DAMELIN**

*Director of International Relations, Parents Circle-Families Forum*

Robi joined the PCFF after her son David was killed by a Palestinian sniper, and has dedicated her life to the message of reconciliation and non-violence at the Parents Circle. She is originally from South Africa, but currently lives in Jaffa. She was voted one of the 50 most influential women in 2015 by "Women in the World" and received the Women's Peace Maker award from the Joan Kroc School of Peace Studies, San Diego. She is the protagonist of the award winning documentary, "One Day after Peace" (Director: Erez Laufer).



# COHORT LEADERSHIP

## THE VERY REVEREND MICHAEL BATTLE

*The cohort will be guided by The Very Reverend Michael Battle,  
as Spiritual Director*



Currently appointed as Herbert Thompson Professor of Church and Society and Director of the Desmond Tutu Center at General Theological Seminary in New York, the Very Rev. Michael Battle was ordained a priest by Archbishop Desmond Tutu in 1993.

On two occasions he moved into churches located in ethnically changing neighborhoods and helped both to adapt and grow. In 2010, Battle was given one of the highest Anglican Church distinctions as “Six Preacher” by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams.

In addition to his extensive church work, Battle has published nine books, including “Reconciliation: The Ubuntu Theology of Desmond Tutu,” and the book for the Episcopal Church’s General Convention, “Ubuntu: I in You and You in Me.” In his PeaceBattle Institute he works on subjects of diversity, spirituality, prayer, race and reconciliation. Battle has also served as vice president to the grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, Arun Gandhi’s Institute for Nonviolence.

For more information, visit <https://michaelbattle.com>



# TELOS LEADERSHIP

## **TODD DEATHERAGE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CO-FOUNDER**

Todd spent sixteen years in senior positions in the legislative and executive branches of the U.S. government before co-founding the Telos Group. From 2005 to 2009, he was Chief of Staff in the Secretary of State's Office of Policy Planning at the U.S. State Department. He also spent two years as Senior Advisor in the Department's Office of International Religious Freedom. Todd worked for a decade in the U.S. Congress, including six years as Chief of Staff to Senator Tim Hutchinson.



## **DAVID KATIBAH, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & CHRISTIAN ENGAGEMENT**

David grew up in North Carolina, earning degrees from UNC Chapel Hill. Prior to joining Telos, he spent time overseas in international ministry and studying at Regent College and RTS Washington. As an Arab-American, his passions lie in supporting conflict transformation efforts in the Middle East, and helping Christians in the US claim their call to be peacemakers. His voice can be heard hosting the Telos Check-in podcast and his writing read on his substack, "Awakenings."



## **DAVID GUNGOR, COHORT GUIDE & DIGITAL STORYTELER**

David recently graduated from General Seminary and works as a pastor at Good Shepherd in NYC. He is also a producer and songwriter, and is in a band called The Brilliance, through which he has partnered with World Relief, Preemptive Love, Tear Fund, and Narrative 4. Alongside performing national U.S. tours and appearing at the MET's Charity Water Gala, The Brilliance has performed globally at festivals all over the world. Much of the Brilliance art has been inspired by Telos over the years.



# WHY JOIN US

## TESTIMONIALS

"I have had my imagination sparked for further relationship and collaboration—I feel more connected to the continuous work of peacemaking, and not just like I went on a great trip."

**REV. KATE GUNGOR**

ASSOCIATE PASTOR, GOOD SHEPHERD NEW YORK | NEW YORK, NY

"The Peacemakers Cohort helped to solidify in my mind what it means to be a peacemaker...The more that Christians practice [peacemaking] in their everyday lives and are empowered by and follow promptings from the Holy Spirit, the more that God's shalom will be witnessed in our communities and around the world."

**REV. LISA WOICIK**

MINISTER OF OUTREACH, UNIVERSITY PLACE PRESBYTERIAN | UNIVERSITY PLACE, WA

"The Peacemakers Cohort was incredibly helpful in that it gave me a framework for thinking about the work of nonviolence and peacemaking in the context of our local church community through prayer, pilgrimage, policy, and projects."

**REV. PAUL PAINO**

RECTOR, SANCTUARY TULSA | TULSA, OK



# NEXT STEPS

**INVESTMENT:**  
\$11,600 (BASED  
ON 10-PERON  
COHORT)

- Included: monthly content; all meals, hotels, materials, honoraria, ground transportation and gratuities associated with both immersive trips and the closing retreat.
- Not included: airfare to and from both immersive trips and the closing retreat.

**REGISTRATION:**

- Fill out the online registration form (<https://bit.ly/Peacemakers2023>) by November 1, 2022
- Submit your first payment before December 1, 2022 (instructions to follow registration)

**CONTACT US:**

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**RESOURCES:**

- Download Telos Principles and Practices of Peacemaking: [www.telosgroup.org/peacemaking](http://www.telosgroup.org/peacemaking)



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