Bethany Peace Essay Contest
*made possible by the Jennie Calhoun Baker Endowment*

Peacemaking,
Creation Justice, and
the Beloved Community

The September 2014 People's Climate March in New York City was one of the largest marches in American history, drawing participants from diverse political, religious, and cultural communities around a common cause. Could creation care and climate justice galvanize an inclusive, expansive social movement—one that pushes toward what Martin Luther King and Vincent Harding called “the beloved community”? Could it push beyond culture wars? Could it contend with racism, sexism, and other forms of inequality and injustice?

We invite contestants to write an essay in a public voice on peacemaking, creation justice, and the beloved community. Topics addressed may include but are not limited to: creation care, a just peace with creation, indigenous communities’ rights, environmental racism, gender and ecology, creating a greener economy, creation-centered spirituality, forging alliances across the traditional “left vs. right” ideological framing of US politics, and forming interreligious and intercultural coalitions for the common good.

**Prizes:**
First prize - $2000
Second prize - $1000
Third prize - $500

**Deadline:** January 26, 2015

**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. Limit one entry per person. Essays will not be returned to the participant.

Essays must be 1500 - 2500 words and double spaced. Please include a word count 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 Essays must be previously unpublished (including websites and blogs).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 your essay will be identified by the title on each numbered page.

Essay submissions will be accepted between January 1 and January 26, 2015, and must be submitted as a .pdf and uploaded to www.bethanyseminary.edu/peace-essay.

All entries must follow these guidelines or they will not be considered for the competition.

**Winners:**
Winners will be alerted by e-mail or telephone before the end of February 2015. After notification, each winner must complete proper tax documentation before receiving a monetary prize. If 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.

If you would prefer to submit your essay as a hard copy, please call or e-mail Bekah Houff for further instructions. Please contact Bekah with any questions you may have.

*Bekah Houff, Coordinator of Outreach Programs, Bethany Theological Seminary, houffre@bethanyseminary.edu, 765-983-1809*