



# Newsletter

## 2014 November Edition

### CPWJ Hires Managing Director

CPWJ took a major step forward in March when Davis “Dee” Froeber became its first managing director. He has an imposing portfolio: program development, advocacy, fundraising and nonprofit management. And he brings to the role an extensive background in the world of citizen diplomacy and international relations.

Dee spent the month of June in Palestine and Israel, meeting with more than 25 organizations that are dedicated to non-violent resistance to the Occupation. Among them were the leaders of eight organizations that receive financial support from CPWJ.

“I’ve had a keen interest in the Middle East and Israel/Palestine for many years,” Dee said. “I’m impressed with CPWJ’s legacy of educating the public about the Nakba of 1948 and the plight of Palestinians, as well as its financial support of organizations in Israel/Palestine that use non-violent resistance to end the Occupation.”

Dee describes his month in Palestine and Israel as “an extremely visceral experience. I heard first-hand from Palestinians the frustration, anger, humiliation and despair they experience daily, living under military occupation. But I also have vivid memories of their stories of resilience and hope for a better future. It was a life-changing experience.”

He said he believes that CPWJ can increase its impact by attracting more volunteers and financial support as it continues to work with other organizations that share its goals. “We need to reach a wider audience with high quality educational programs,” he said, “and increase our advocacy work with elected officials. The Board and I are developing a strategic plan that will help take CPWJ to the next level.”

A native of North Carolina, Dee majored in religion at Campbell University and earned a Master of Divinity degree at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He did postgraduate work at the Summer Institute for Intercultural Communication in Portland, Ore., and at North Carolina State University. Areas of focus have included comparative religion, Islam, intercultural communication, interfaith dialogue, and a summer in Shanghai studying Chinese culture and language. This [past](#) September he earned a certificate in nonprofit management from Duke University.

Dee served as Minister to Internationals at Forest Hills Baptist Church (FHBC) in Raleigh from 1981 to 2010. He launched programs and services that eventually attracted up to 1,500 internationals weekly from some 70 countries.

Programs and services for internationals that Dee developed at the church ranged from weekend retreats and social events to sponsorship of refugees and asylum seekers, cross-cultural counseling, and interfaith dialogue. He recruited and trained an annual pool of 75 volunteers to staff them.

Responding to post-9/11 Islamophobia, Dee established people-to-people exchanges between FHBC and the Islamic Center of Raleigh. In cooperation with the International Visitors Council and U.S. State Department, he hosted senior religious and political leaders from North Africa and the Middle East for dialogues on religion-state relations and religious pluralism/freedom in American society. Dee was instrumental in founding pan-African, Chinese and Iranian churches, sponsored by FHBC.

Dee also supervised Chinese (P.R.C.), Taiwanese and Iranian language schools at the church for 900 children. He hosted visits to the schools by diplomatic staff from the People's Republic of China's U.S. embassy and the Taipei (Taiwan) Economic and Cultural Office.

Other highlights of Dee's career include organizing Sino-U.S. dialogues on interfaith and religion-state relations. At the request of China's ambassador to the U.S., he hosted a 2008 U.S. tour of China's multi-faith leaders meeting with U.S. multi-faith leaders, members of Congress, the State Department officials, and former President Jimmy Carter. The following year, China's minister of religious affairs invited him to bring a delegation of U.S. multi-faith leaders to China for dialogue.

In 2010 Dee founded the Global Institute for Religious and Cultural Diplomacy. His leadership led to the first U.S. summit of Chinese and U.S. Protestant leaders on Christianity in China and Sino-U.S. Christian relations.

Dee's background in international relations and nonprofit leadership is a good fit for CPWJ. "CPWJ has untapped potential to influence public opinion and impact the discourse on peace with justice in Israel/Palestine," Dee said, "and I'm excited to be part of that."

*Submitted by Barbara Ryan*