



2019 Workcamp Commissioning Resources

Theme Scripture

2 Peter 1:5-8

The Message

So, don't lose a minute in building on what you've been given, complimenting your basic faith with good character, spiritual understanding, alert discipline, passionate patience, reverent wonder, warm friendliness and generous love, each dimension fitting into and developing the others. With these qualities active and growing in your lives, no grass will grow under your feet, no day will pass without its reward as you mature in your experience of our Master Jesus.

Litany

Leader: You have heard God's gentle whisper calling you to serve.

Congregation: Continue to grow in your faith by trusting in God's presence and guidance.

Participants: We look forward to accepting God's call and planting seeds of love in the world.

Leader: God desires a relationship with you.

Congregation: Continue to grow in your faith by rooting yourself in God's word.

Participants: We are ready to search for the Spirit as we share our time, and journey on this workcamp together.

Leader: God provided Jesus as a role model for your lives.

Congregation: Continue to grow in your faith by following the example of Christ.

Participants: We yearn to respond to all situations with the compassion and grace that Christ has shown to us.

Leader: God hopes you will create meaningful moments that foster spiritual connection.

Congregation: Continue to grow in your faith by actively creating these moments with your workcamp community and those you serve.

Participants: We seek to intentionally find time with God as we worship and fellowship.

Leader: God wants you to create vibrant community as you open yourselves up to those around you and build new friendships.

Congregation: Continue to grow in your faith by following the call in Romans 12 to not be the "great somebody," but to be "friends with nobodies."

Participants: We will welcome those we meet so that we may come together and spread God's news with open arms.

Leader: God provided a world full of wonder for you to explore and appreciate.

Congregation: Continue to grow in your faith by stepping out of your comfort zones and discovering joy.

Participants: We look forward to connecting to our world in new ways and having mountaintop experiences.

Leader: Go now and be generous with your lives. Go now with the exciting opportunity to foster friendships and with an eagerness to serve.

Congregation: We send you out to continue to grow in your faith through love, and we will welcome you back home with love in our hearts.

Participants: We thank you for your loving support, we leave this place with open hands and open hearts.

Prayer of Sending

Creator God, we thank you for these youth and advisors (*or young adults*) and their desire to serve. We see your spirit stirring in each of them, guiding and supporting them as they branch out to serve your world. Be with each one of them as they travel and do your work in (*insert name of workcamp*). We ask that you keep them safe and allow their hearts to grow as they work with people from all walks of life. We pray that they see examples of your love in everyone they meet, and that they deepen their faith through the relationships they build and the work they do. Please be with our congregation as we support these youth and advisors (*or young adults*) while they act as your hands and feet in the world. Move us to grow our own faith, cultivating love and bearing fruit in our home community as we await their return. Amen.

Suggested hymn: Here I am, Lord #395

Will you let me be your servant #307

Workcamp Project Descriptions

Feel free to read the workcamp description(s) below for your participants' workcamp(s) so your congregation knows more about how they are serving.

Boston, MA

In Boston, Massachusetts, workcampers will be hosted by the United Parish of Brookline as they serve at the Greater Boston Food Bank, Community Servings, Cradles to Crayons, and a few local farms. Participants will learn about food insecurity and ways to combat this need through sustainable farming, the reuse of "undesirable" food, and the serving of meals at a soup kitchen.

Cañon City, CO - BRF

Participants attending the workcamp in Cañon City, Colorado will be serving with New Horizons Ministry, an organization that provides Christ-centered nurture and programming for children and families whose parents are incarcerated. Workcampers will be serving New Horizons Ministry through their children's outreach and at their thrift store.

Harrisburg, PA

This workcamp, hosted by the Harrisburg First Church of the Brethren, partners with On Earth Peace to serve the Brethren Housing Association, an organization that provides housing and social services to homeless individuals in the Harrisburg area. Work will include renovation projects, yard work, and cleaning. Participants will also help with the Harrisburg First Church of the Brethren's Vacation Bible School. On this workcamp, youth will learn about urban housing issues and homelessness while exploring peace education and justice.

Knoxville, TN

Workcampers will be volunteering with the Knoxville Dream Center, Knox Area Rescue Ministries, and The Love Kitchen. Their work will include serving food to the homeless community, sorting food donations, brightening up the Knox Area Rescue Ministries facilities, cleaning and pricing at a thrift store, and many other projects. Participants will learn about the current housing issues in Knoxville and the ways that these organizations assist those affected by homelessness.

Lybrook, NM

Workcampers will be immersed in the Navajo culture as they spend time building relationships with the locals and working at the Lybrook Mission, the facility that will host them. Participants will spend time gardening, working at the Mission's thrift shop, and building out-houses for the community members. Along with the physical work, the workcampers will also be able to experience relational work as they learn the trades of community members, eat traditional Navajo food, and experience the southwest.

Perryville, AR

Workcampers traveling to Perryville, Arkansas will serve at Heifer Ranch, a working farm that has deep roots in the Church of the Brethren. Participants will work with Heifer's farm crew to repair fences, clear brush, conduct animal chores, and complete all kinds of projects. Workcampers will have the chance to experience Heifer's Global Village, which simulates life experiences not felt in middle- or upper-class America. Participants will prepare a meal with limited resources and spend the night in living conditions similar to what could be found in other countries around the world.

Petersburg, PA

Workcampers will get a taste of camp life as they work at Camp Blue Diamond in Petersburg, Pennsylvania. The group will be beautifying the camp property through clean-up and restoration projects. They will also spend a morning in service at Centre Peace, an organization that runs a used goods recycling program that aims to keep trash out of landfills and provide employment for Centre County inmates. This workcamp will provide youth the chance to spend time in nature through service, worship, and fellowship.

Portland, OR

The Peace Church of the Brethren will be hosting the workcampers while they partner with SnowCap, an organization that serves the poor. Participants will learn about the housing crisis in Portland and the ways SnowCap is trying to help. Work projects will include landscaping, bagging produce, repacking food items, and working in the clothing area. The week will be filled with adventure and beautiful landscapes for this group as we learn and grow together while exploring the coastline, waterfalls, and mountains

Roanoke, VA

This workcamp will be hosted by the Roanoke First Church of the Brethren. Workcampers will work at the Roanoke Rescue Mission, an organization that works with Roanoke's homeless and low-income population. Workcampers will have the opportunity to serve by working in food service and a thrift store. The group will also get to experience a Bless My Sole event where they will share a foot washing service with the community.

Rodney, MI

Workcampers will get a taste of camp life as they work at Camp Brethren Heights preparing for the summer of camps. The group will likely be creating a footbridge, moving brush and firewood, painting cabins, and cleaning up the surrounding woods and lake shoreline. Participants will worship and work together as they explore the beautiful nature and peaceful camp landscape.

South Bend, IN

Prince of Peace Church of the Brethren will welcome workcampers to explore the theme of poverty and privilege in the Michiana community of South Bend, Indiana. Participants will work with local organizations to disrupt the cycle of poverty through programs that provided support and mentorship to those in need. Work may include serving at the Unity Gardens, Food Bank of Northern Indiana, and Centre for the Homeless.

Waco, TX – Family Abuse Center

This workcamp will be serving at the Family Abuse Center, an emergency shelter for individuals who are seeking help and shelter from domestic abuse in Waco, TX. Participants will serve at the shelter by gardening, painting fences, cleaning and sanitizing, and organizing donations in their various storage sheds. Workcampers will get the opportunity to explore Waco, while learning about the poverty in the area through discussions and simulations.

Washington, DC

Workcampers will be hosted by the Washington City Church of the Brethren and will partner with the Office of Peacebuilding & Policy to explore the intersection of service and advocacy. Workcampers will serve with Capital Area Food Bank, DC Central Kitchen, and So Others May Eat to provide food for those in need and learn about food insecurity. Youth will then experience how the lobbying process works and get to transform their learning into legislative action.

China

Young adult workcampers will partner with You'ai Care and You'ai Hospital in Shanxi, China to engage in relational service with the patients at these organizations. This may include making yogurt, delivering food and tea to patients, participating in training with volunteers, and beautifying the hospital grounds. Participants will also have an opportunity to visit some sites

related to the Brethren mission started in this area in 1910 and may even meet people who knew our Brethren missionaries.

We Are Able—Elgin, IL

We Are Able participants will have an opportunity to serve at food banks and distribution centers in the Fox River Valley of Northern Illinois. They will serve together to sort, repackage, and distribute food through several organizations in the area. There will also be fun recreational outings which may include a bowling night, attending a concert or movie, or visiting a nature center.

We Are Able Assistants—Elgin, IL

The We Are Able assistants are participating in the We Are Able workcamp, a workcamp for intellectually disabled youth and young adults. These participants will serve alongside the We Are Able workcampers, helping to care for their needs and helping them with their work at food banks and distribution centers in the Fox River Valley of Northern Illinois as they sort, repackage, and distribute food through several organizations in the area.