

# DAVID C. JEHNSEN

## CHAIR AND FOUNDING TRUSTEE INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES



To develop and institutionalize programs and leadership education including research, training & education and public-information regarding the democratic way of life, Kingian Nonviolence Conflict Reconciliation, Historic Peace Churches and the values and practice of democratic social change. Fifty-plus years in long-range strategic planning and implementation of practical programs with fundamental systems has been the core of my experience and effectiveness since 1962 to the present.

Since 2008, Jehnsen served as Board Chair for the Every Church a Peace Church Board (ECAPC) until the fall of 2012. The ECAPC was a national organization in Atlanta, Georgia with a mission to develop the nonviolence justice and peacemaking capacities of local congregations and strengthen the peace and justice capacities of denominations. In 2012 ECAPC was merged with On Earth Peace as an external ecumenical program named Living Peace Church. From 2005 until 2012 he served Churches Supporting Churches (CSC) as Vice Chair of its National Working Group in New Orleans and served on the CSC Board of Directors. He conducted monthly Pastors Institutes on Capacity Building with Kingian Nonviolence since August 2006. He is a founding member of Living Peace Church of the Brethren in Columbus, Ohio.

David Jehnsen has been a social change activist, organizer and educator in adult education for democracy with emphasis on special projects and systems related to nonviolence and social responsibility. His experience with nonviolence began at an early age in the Church of the Brethren and was stimulated by exposure to Martin Luther King, Jr.'s leadership of the nonviolent human rights campaigns.

In 1962, his participation in the Albany Movement, part of a national delegation of interfaith leaders that provided an opportunity for direct ongoing involvement in Dr. King's campaigns through 1968. He combines the experience and skills of organizing social movements with innovative ideas about the philosophy of learning and leadership education. His focus has been on institutionalizing the capacity to provide training, research, education and public information about nonviolent approaches to reconciling unjust social conflicts and violent conditions.

Mr. Jehnsen's experience with schools has been nontraditional. He was awarded a master's degree from Harvard University Graduate School of Education in 1977 and completed his course work and qualifying paper for a doctorate degree from Harvard in 1985. His dissertation topic is "The Cultural Transferability of N.F.S. Grundtvig's Conception of Adult Education."

He is retained by public and private organizations to design institutional programs in leadership education about nonviolence conflict reconciliation and social change for democracy. He conducts seminars and programs that educate people at many levels of society about the philosophy and methodology of nonviolence. In 1980-81, he served as Deputy Director of the U.S. Congressional Commission charged with design of the United States Institute of Peace. He drafted the Commission's first proposal and supporting legislation for Chair Senator Spark M. Matsunaga.

Mr. Jehnsen has worked closely with Bernard LaFayette, Jr., another leader in the Kingian human rights movement, as a multidisciplinary team since 1964 to promote Kingian Nonviolence Conflict Reconciliation strategies and programs in the United States and internationally. In 1978, they formed the Institute for Human Rights and Responsibilities. He is Chair and Founding Trustee of the Institute which he continues to serve in an important range of programs related to social change and development in the United States and internationally. He and Bernard LaFayette co-authored *The Leaders Manual: A Structured Guide and Introduction to Kingian Nonviolence- The Philosophy and Methodology*.

David Jehnsen is a native of Michigan and lives in Galena, Ohio with his wife Deborah.