

An excerpt from an article published in January by Bethel College, North Newton KS.

A native of Elkhart, Indiana, Sarah Thompson spent six years as the volunteer North American representative to **Mennonite World Conference**'s Youth and Young Adult Executive Committee and **Global Youth Summit** planning group. She has also been a volunteer with **Mennonite Central Committee** in Jerusalem, Washington, D.C., and her hometown of Elkhart.

Thompson has traveled widely while holding these positions and through other volunteer and activist work with feminist anti-war movements, Spanish translation opportunities, the Fulbright Scholars program and Spelman College, Atlanta, from which she graduated summa cum laude in 2006 with a double major in comparative women's studies and international studies and a minor in Spanish.

A 2011 Masters of Divinity graduate of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Thompson served as a member of CPT's steering committee from 2010-12, and worked for a year as CPT Outreach Coordinator before taking the executive director position.

In accepting that position, Thompson said, "I feel called to the spiritual practice of building partnerships that transform violence and oppression."

Christian Peacemaker Teams was founded in Chicago in 1986. Originally sponsored by the two major North American Mennonite denominations and the Church of the Brethren, CPT has become increasingly ecumenical and now receives support from American Baptist, Presbyterian, Friends and other North American Christian groups.

Though unapologetically Christian, CPT seeks "the Gospel liberation of all people through the power of forgiveness and nonviolence," according to its identity statement.

Small groups of trained CPT volunteers and stipended workers focus on building "an organizational culture of justice, inclusion, mutual respect and welcome ... [and] structures that reflect the rich diversity of the human family in ability, age, class, ethnicity, gender identity, language, national origin, race and sexual orientation."

On its project sites in North America and internationally, CPT works with local partners from a variety of faith traditions, encouraging the formation and development of other faith-based, nonviolent peace teams and working cooperatively with them.