



# IMPACT REPORT 2021-22



BPFNA ~ BAUTISTAS POR LA PAZ

# NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

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The years 2021 and 2022 brought challenges, and we found opportunities to make an impact for peace because of you and your strong support. Our staff, board, volunteers, and leaders worked hard during these years. Particularly, I want to offer a shout-out to staff who served us and transitioned into other roles: Allison Paksoy, Jasmine Pope, and Doris Garcia Rivera, who served for three years as interim director. The work of peace with justice cannot grow to its full potential on its own. The winds of the Spirit can kindle the flames of a movement, and I believe a movement can grow, thrive, and transform when those winds combine with the energies and prayers of committed peacemakers. I invite you to learn about how we have grown in the last two years and I hope you will join us in the future to nurture a deep network of peace and justice through BPFNA ~ Bautistas por la Paz.

# NOTE FROM THE BOARD

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Our board comes from five countries and speaks at least two languages. We keep abreast of the myriad needs of our Baptist siblings in the trenches of peacemaking work. As we lean into being actively anti-racist and non-hierarchical, consultants at Crossroads have helped us recognize the need for a culture shift. While it is well underway, it can't happen with a simple set of workshops. It's a constant re-examination that helps us better live into our vision as an organization that leads and responds to peacemaking and justice-seeking efforts around the world. New staff members and the return of in-person events cost money, and I know that we have it in our constituencies. And we believe with faith, work, and God's Spirit, we can move mountains. Already, we have surpassed previous years' giving and we are well on our way to taking the next chapter in this organization's rich history. As we approach our 40th year, we look forward to many more ways that we can respond to God's call to be peacemakers in this world.



A handwritten signature of Jason Smith in white ink, written in a cursive style.

**JASON SMITH**

Executive Director



A handwritten signature of Doug Donley in white ink, written in a cursive style.

**DOUG DONLEY**

President

# GATHER

## 2022 Summer Conference: A Time to Heal



Members share fellowship after the 2022 international conference keynote.

## 2021 Summer Conference: Soaring in the Spirit



Sandra Picos Pérez sings the 2021 summer conference theme song.



VIRTUAL SUMMER CONFERENCE 2021  
CONFERENCIA VIRTUAL DE VERANO 2021



# EQUIP

## Peace Fund grants empower peacemakers

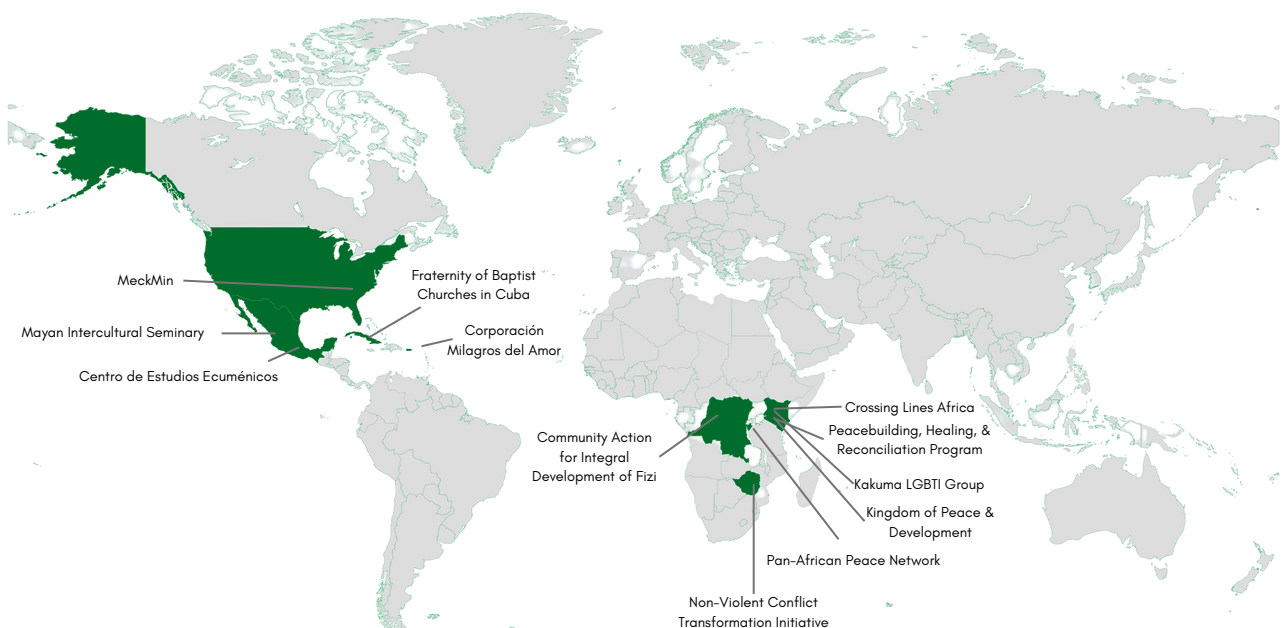
In 2021 and 2022, we awarded 12 grants of up to \$1,500 to support local and global projects that equip, mobilize, and gather to build a culture of peace rooted in justice.



Corporación Milagros del Amor, a ministry of the First Baptist Church of Caguas, received a grant to further its mission of improving local quality of life through activities in the areas of health, employment, education, and recreation.

"We live in times of many challenges," said executive director Gladys Rodríguez. "We must be agents of peace, bearing blessings and helping those with the most need."

## Grant Recipients





# EQUIP

## Digital database project for children & youth



Through support from the Hispanic Theological Initiative at Princeton Theological Seminary, BPFNA~Bautistas por la Paz has been equipped with a student intern to help develop a children's and youth peacemaking resources webpage. This digital database of resources for children, youth, and those who work with them is

slated to launch in early 2023. Reflecting our values of peace- and justice-making, these resources will be culturally diverse and bilingual as well as address underrepresented issues in a developmentally appropriate and trauma-informed manner. The resource team consisted of BPFNA members Joshua Russell, Anita Peebles, and Jasmin Figueroa, as well as external partners.

## BAPTIST PEACEMAKER

We released 5 issues of our award-winning publication with 38 contributors authoring articles, reviews, artwork, and news to connect peacemakers around the world. In 2022 we published the first fully bilingual edition.

## Mindfulness & Spirituality Virtual Workshop



On August 6, 2022, a Mindfulness & Spirituality virtual workshop equipped peacemakers with practical strategies to face crises of injustice with resilience, meaning, and understanding. Júlio Cezar Adam and Clairton Puntel of Centro Beatitude in São Leopoldo, Brazil, led the session.

# MOBILIZE

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## 'In a time of so much pain, tears of joy'

A peace activist in Uganda, Philip Kakungulu works with Crossing Lines Africa. In September, he sustained serious injuries on a motorcycle tour of southern Africa leading workshops and trainings on nonviolence.



With partners in the Alliance of Baptists, we mobilized peacemakers to raise enough money to pay for medical bills resulting from treatment of two broken fingers, a broken ankle, and a back injury. During his recovery he continued to oversee the LGBTQ+ Crisis Center he helped found. When a new water well was built, he cried tears of joy through the pain.



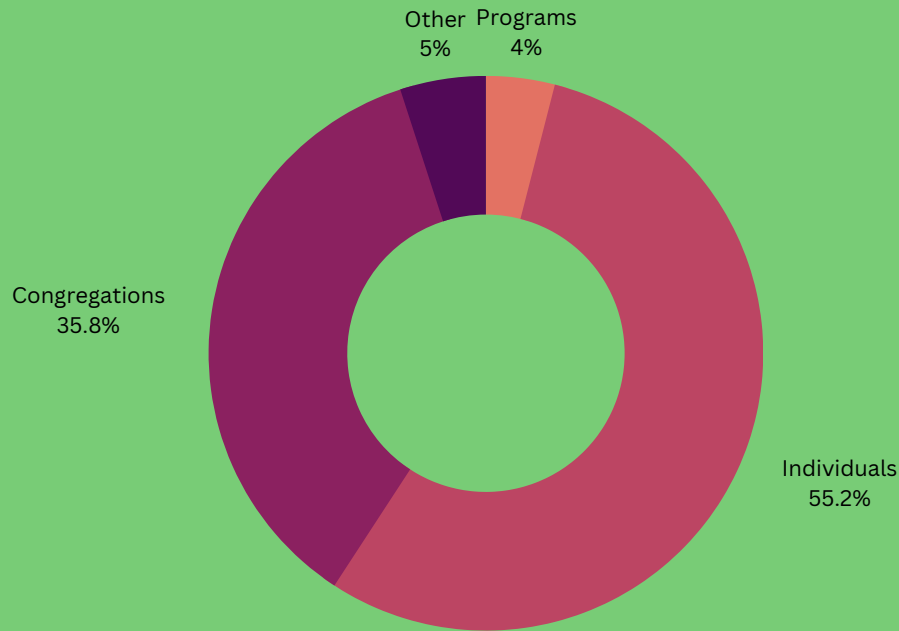
## 'Called to action'

In the aftermath of Hurricane Fiona, we sent relief funds to our partners at the American Baptist Churches of Puerto Rico. In the photo to the left, volunteers receive food, water, and other supplies for those affected by the storm.

# 2021 BY THE NUMBERS

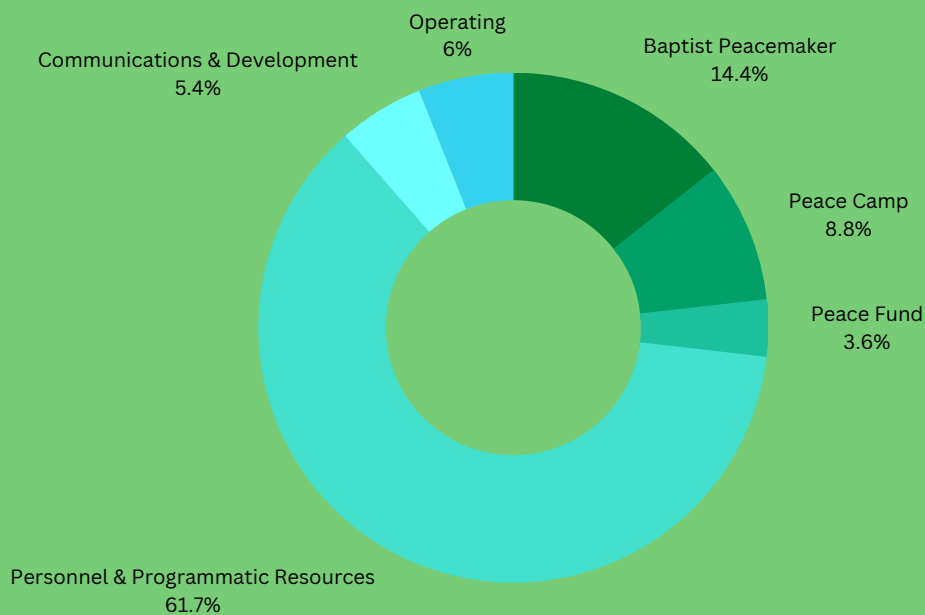
## *Support*

\$234,970.74



## *Expenses*

\$243,634.08



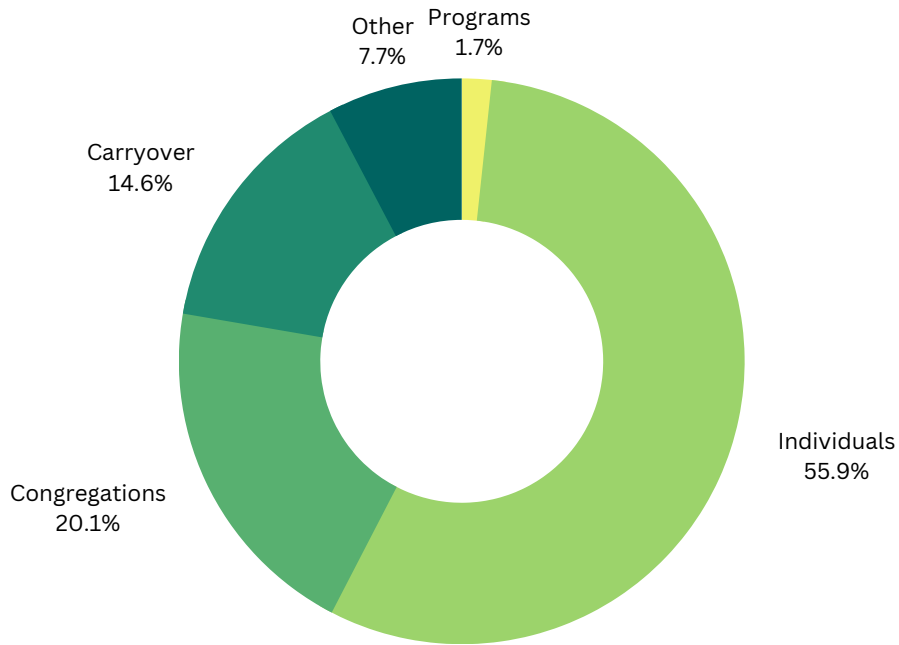


# 2022 BY THE NUMBERS

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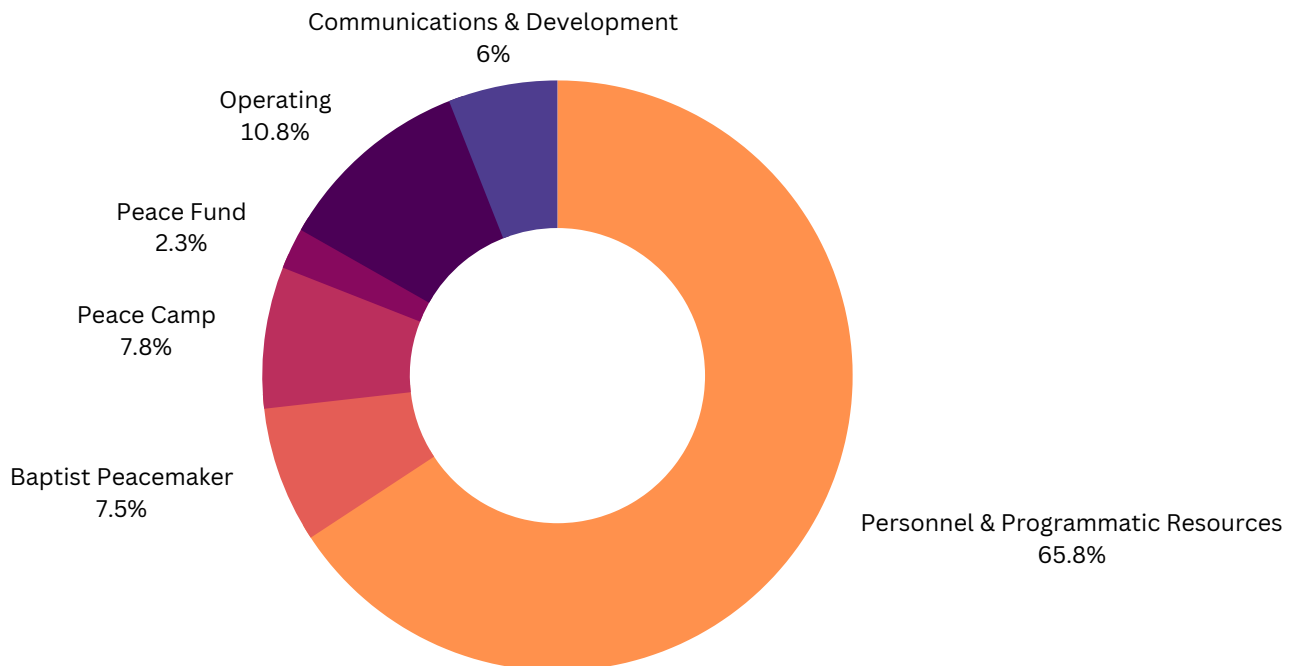
## ***Support***

\$281,527.11



## ***Expenses***

\$280,542



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Bernard & Jeanne Yurke

# ESTATE GIFTS

We offer gratitude for the generosity of the following peacemakers who designated gifts for BPFNA~Bautistas por la Paz in their estates:

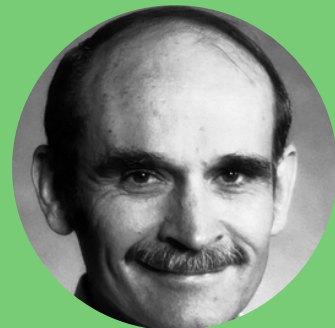


**Jim Ledbetter** gave expression to the vision of a just and peaceable world as a pastor and a person. He attended Peace Camp for several years, traveled on a peacemaking tour of Palestine, and served as a board member.



**Bill Moore** pastored three churches in South Carolina and Tennessee before serving the Home Mission Board in New Orleans, La., and teaching at Union Baptist College. A prolific author, he wrote two books, a Bible study, and numerous articles in *Baptists Today*, the *Kentucky Baptist Western Recorder*, and our own *Baptist Peacemaker*.

Please contact Jason Smith for information on how to include us in your estate.



**Hugh Young** served as a pastor and teacher in Georgia before sharing the gospel in Japan as a missionary with the International Mission Board. After 29 years as missionaries, he and his wife retired to Hendersonville, N.C.

# ORGANIZATIONAL DONORS

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Alliance of Baptists  
American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island  
American Baptist Home Mission Society  
Association of Welcoming & Affirming Baptists  
Austin Heights Baptist Church  
Aylmer Baptist Church  
Baptist Peacemakers of Rhode Island  
Baylor University Library Serials  
Binkley Memorial Baptist Church  
Calvary Baptist Church  
Canadian Baptist Ministries  
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Cherry Hill Baptist Church  
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Common Street Spiritual Center  
Community Foundation of the Lowcountry  
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Cumberland First Baptist Church  
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Emmanuel Frieda's Church  
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First Baptist Church in Beverly  
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University Baptist & Brethren Church  
University Baptist Church  
Wake Forest University School of Divinity  
Warrenville Community Baptist Church  
Watts Street Baptist Church  
West Henrietta Baptist Church  
Williston-Immanuel United Church  
Woodbine Heights Baptist Church

# NEWS

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## Staff recognized for years of service

We're grateful for the work and witness of Doris Garcia Rivera, who retired after three years as interim executive director; Allison Paksoy, who moved to a new position after nine years as communication manager; and Katie Cook, who edited the *Baptist Peacemaker* for over 30 years.



**Doris Garcia Rivera**



**Allison Paksoy**



**Katie Cook**



**Jason Smith**



**Erica Saunders**

Two new staff members joined the BPFNA team in August 2022: executive director Jason Smith and communications manager Erica Saunders. Jason previously worked as strategic donations director of *Sojourners* while Erica served as pastor of a partner congregation in Ohio. Meet Jason, Erica, and the rest of the staff below.



**WE HAVE TO BE CANDLES, BURNING BETWEEN HOPE AND DESPAIR** — A new Board of Directors lights candles produced by an indigenous artisan to reflect on the work of peace and justice in the world. They met for the first time on Oct. 12, 2022.

# MEET THE STAFF

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**Rubén David  
Bonilla Ramos**  
Editor-in-Chief

*Baptist Peacemaker*

Rubén David is a PhD candidate in Toronto, where he lives with his wife and daughter.



**Jasmin Figueroa**  
Web Editor for  
Children & Youth

Jasmin is a PhD candidate in Boston. She connected with BPFNA through the Hispanic Theological Initiative's internship program.



**Set Juárez**  
Web Specialist

Set has lived in Aguascalientes, Mexico, since he was 7 years old. He finds working with BPFNA to be "filled with learning, wonderful people, and interesting challenges."



**Kristen Pajkowski**  
Database &  
Office Manager

Kristen lives in Charlotte, N.C. They enjoy creative writing, spending time with their cats, and eating authentic Mexican & Puerto Rican food.



**Erica Saunders**  
Communications  
Manager

Erica is one of the first openly trans women ordained in Baptist life. She loves corny puns, hiking, and trying new restaurants in Charlotte, N.C.



**Jason Smith**  
Executive Director

Jason lives in Arkadelphia, Ark., with his wife and four children. For fun he travels, cheers on the Little Rock Rangers, and tries to play the piano like Elton John.



**Ximena Ulloa  
Montemayor**  
Events Coordinator

Mena lives in Mexico City, where she loves volunteering in music and liturgy at her church. She thinks BPFNA is "a great family, with firm convictions, commitment and willingness to serve."



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## **President**

Doug Donley (Mounds View, MN, USA)

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# Summer Conference

June 26-30, 2023

Centro Capuchino  
San Juan, Puerto Rico