



A Brief History...

MPT began as *Michigan Faith and Resistance* in the 1980's, and evolved into Michigan Peace Team on October 22, 1993. In February of 2013, as part of our 20th Anniversary celebration, we changed our name to better reflect our work (i.e., not limited to Michigan) and became "Meta Peace Team". "Meta" connotes moving beyond and transforming - - It fits the aspirations of our mission.

Originally founded by Rev. Peter Dougherty and Jasiu Milanowski, in collaboration with a number of other notable peacemakers, MPT became an official nonprofit (501c3) organization in 1998. The Church of the Brethren (one of the traditional "peace churches") acted as our sponsor during this process. *The original MPT vision was "To train thousands of thousands of citizen peacemakers around the world to reduce violence on all levels of all societies."*

MPT doesn't have a Board of Directors, but instead, has formed what we call a "Core Community". The Core Community models how we want all of our Peace Teams to operate. One primary focus is that we act as "community" with each other, rather than becoming bureaucratic. We are non-hierarchical and driven by consensus decision making...A vision of how we'd like the world to operate.

Placing International Peace Teams was our initial focus. In 1993, we placed our first International Team, joining "Mir Sada" ("*Peace Now*" in Serbo-Croatian) for a three-month violence interruption project in Bosnia. It was there that we realized that people needed training to be effective peace team members. Skills training has been a primary focus ever since. Since then, we have placed international peace teams in Haiti, Israel, the West Bank, Gaza, Mexico, Iraq, Egypt, Panama, the sovereign nations of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community and the Western Shoshone Indians, and at the U.S./Mexico border.

In 1996, in response to requests for local peace teams to prevent violence, MPT placed its first "Domestic" Peace Team (i.e., meaning within the U.S. borders) at the Detroit Free Press Strike and by 1998, we were regularly fielding Domestic Peace Teams to prevent violence after big sporting events, at national and state conferences, KKK rallies, Gay Pride parades, cultural events, executions, political gatherings, social protests, and potentially controversial events (such as the debut of "The Laramie Project" play in Ann Arbor). We have also offered protective accompaniment for threatened school children, activists, and even reporters from the *Southern Poverty Law Center*.

MPT has been firm in the stance that we don't go anywhere we're not invited out of respect for the communities involved. We will offer information on what we do, and how we may be able to help, but seek to partner with community members in owning their own power rather than appearing to usurp it.

In 2004, we added an extensive internship program to our offerings. Since that time, we have had student interns from all over the United States as well as France, Costa Rica, Japan, Ethiopia, Poland, Botswana, Egypt, and Ghana.

In July 2005, we were invited to and presented at the United Nation's Global Partnership for the

Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) Summit meeting, held in New York, and again in 2009 in Mexico City.

In 2009, President Abbas of the Palestinian Authority awarded MPT an engraved plaque in appreciation for our extensive peace work in the West Bank and Gaza, and MPT co-founder Peter Dougherty was awarded India's "International Gandhi" Award by the Bjaj Foundation.

In 2022, MPT was part of the first global gathering of practitioners of Unarmed Civilian Protection and Accompaniment (UCP/A). This international meeting, held in Geneva, Switzerland, resulted in the [Unarmed Civilian Protections/Accompaniment Community of Practice](#).

We are a member organization of [Nonviolent Peaceforce](#), and a founding member of the [Shanti Sena Network](#). Our Peace Partners include [The Metta Center for Nonviolence](#), [Pax Christi USA](#), [The National Working Group to Prevent Violence](#), [the Trust Network](#), [Veterans for Peace](#), [Detroit Jews for Justice](#), the [International Solidarity Network](#), [Pace e Bene](#), [DC Peace Team](#), and [Jewish Voice for Peace](#).

In addition to our peace team training and placement, we are also currently partnering with the communities within the United States (e.g., Detroit, MI; Roanoke, VA; etc.), to empower ordinary citizens with violence prevention and de-escalation skills.

In October of 2025, MPT will celebrate 32 years of pursuing peace through active nonviolence.

MPT offers a website (www.metapeaceteam.org) and discussion blog ([MPT Musings](#)) along with social networking that includes *Facebook*, *YouTube*, *BlueSky*, and *Pinterest*.

The Vision and Mission of Meta Peace Team

Meta Peace Team: Creating an alternative to militarism and violence through empowered peacemaking.

Our Vision: A just world grounded in nonviolence and respect for the sacred interconnectedness of all life.

Our Mission: Building a just and sustainable world through active nonviolence.

Our Goals (The 4 Pillars of MPT):

- ✚ Educating the public to the vision and practice of active nonviolence, particularly as it relates to nonviolent conflict intervention
 - ✚ Providing training in active nonviolence and violence de-escalation skills, designed for the specific needs of the participants
 - ✚ Recruiting, training, and placing Peace Teams both domestically and internationally
 - ✚ Cooperating, supporting, and participating with local peace and justice groups and organizations, particularly as it relates to our mission
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When the public asks who we are while we're serving on a Team...

We are volunteer peacemakers invited by the community and working as Meta Peace Team. The sponsors of this event/community have invited us to be here. Our role is to be a peaceful presence, protecting human life and human rights and creating space for productive conflict & its resolution.

We are autonomous, self-organized affinity teams of individuals. We are creating the world we want to exist by living it: a world where conflict and confrontation are healthy and inevitable and can occur with a mutual respect for human rights and dignity; a world where voluntary cooperation, egalitarian relationships, solidarity and mutual aid are the norm.

We place peace teams domestically and internationally. We've had teams in Canada, Haiti, Mexico, Bosnia, Iraq, Panama, Egypt during the Gaza Freedom March, El Salvador, with the First Nations people at Standing Rock - North Dakota, and all across the United States. We continue to place teams in Israel/Palestine and along the U.S./Mexico border at the invitation of the people there.

We would love to have you learn more about our work. Please visit our website at metapeaceteam.org for more information about who we are and on how you can get involved

So WHO IS MPT?

MPT is a group of individuals creating a nonviolent alternative to militarism through empowered peacemaking. MPT understands that the primary violence in our world is structural and embedded in systems of oppression and domination. We seek a just world grounded in nonviolence and respect for the sacred interconnectedness of all life. MPT trains individuals in violence de-escalation skills and places trained teams of volunteers (when invited) in war zones and places of conflict where there is a likelihood of violence. MPT has placed (and is recruiting for) Peace Teams for both our international sites as well as for our domestic peace teams within the U.S.

Learn more! Visit www.metapeaceteam.org to schedule a nonviolence skills training, a presentation, to make a donation to support this work, and/or to get more information.