

## **Just Neighbors Award November 2015**

*Presented by:*

**Compassion, Peace & Justice Task Force of the Presbytery of Des Moines**

*Presented to:*

**Betty & Maurice Dyer, Indianola, Trinity United  
for engaging in compassion, peace and justice ministry in the Presbytery  
through Don Justo Coffee with Dignity**

Sometimes the simplest things can make a world of difference. This has been true of a number of the Presbytery's Just Neighbors. And it is especially true today. What could be simpler, more common-place, than a cup of coffee? We put on a pot in the morning without even thinking about it. But to literally hundreds of people in the highlands of El Salvador, the coffee we drink every day makes an incredible difference.

Maurice and Betty Dyer know this is true. As coffee coordinators for Don Justo Coffee with Dignity, they know the growers, the cutters, the roasters and the

baggers at one end. They know everyone who helps to make Don Justo Coffee available in churches and workplaces at this end. They receive, inventory, store, distribute and send coffee. They most likely dream about coffee at night!

So far, Betty and Maurice have been to 45 churches for coffee talks, sermons and minutes for mission. Thanks to their encouragement, 21 Presbyterian churches—and 7 others—now serve Don Justo Coffee exclusively. Their devotion to the people whose lives are better because of coffee sales goes beyond any job description.

Upon hearing that Maurice and Betty would be receiving the Just Neighbors Award at this Meeting of Presbytery, Mission Co-worker Katherine Pater and the Pastoral Team in Berlín, Usulután, El Salvador sent these words to be shared: "We, the Pastoral Team of Berlín are extremely grateful to Betty and Maurice Dyer for their dedicated work on behalf of the Don Justo Coffee project. Every bag of coffee they work to sell supports impoverished, but empowered, Salvadoran communities to meet their needs for fertilizer, water tanks, healthcare, food aid, and funeral expenses. We cannot thank them enough for their love for and solidarity with the Salvadoran people, particularly the people of the communities of Berlín. Our work would simply not be possible without their work."

If you've had a cup of coffee here today, you have been a part of this mission! Please join us in recognizing the Dyers for their tireless efforts to grow the Don Justo Coffee with Dignity project, making that morning cup of coffee mean so much more.



Betty & Maurice Dyer are shown accepting the award on behalf of Don Justo Coffee with Dignity from Susan Stroope.