Committee: Jean Balderston, Rosalie Baldwin, Candace Cunard, Susan Cushman, Betsy Harris, Emily Miller, Brent Nicholson-Earle, Danuta Widlo, Meliza Weir, Kay Wenzel

We, the members of Broadway United Church of Christ, a progressive congregation in New York City since 1840, commit to becoming a Just Peace church with the following mission:

--We welcome and nurture all who enter our Christ-centered community, recognizing and affirming our diversity. Regardless of where people are on their journey, they are welcome at Broadway. Embracing our differences, we are one body in Christ, which teaches us to value each person’s unique gifts to both give and receive nurturing.

--We recognize that as a diverse people, we may differ in our vision for the church, the community, and the world. We pledge to respect each other’s views as we seek common Christ-led pathways to support justice for all. We know that conflict is inevitable and sometimes a healthy first step to community growth and positive change.

--Therefore, we define peace as a process and not always a destination; we value the peaceful approach to social action, not expecting immediate or permanent results. Since our community will evolve with time, as will the social and political culture in which we live, we expect our just peace ministries to evolve, as well.

--The UCC General Synod defines “Just Peace” as the “interrelation of friendship, justice, and common security from violence.” We at BUCC identify “Just Peace” as the important connection of seeking justice through peaceful means. The UCC commitment is to alleviating systematic injustice through non-violent direct action with Jesus as our earliest role model. The BUCC Just Peace committee will meet regularly, organize social actions open to church member participation, pray often, and love always.

--We support just peace in the Community – so that all may live free from fear (for example, we support gun reform, immigrant rights and shelter, LGBTQ rights and activism, inter-faith partnership, racial and gender equality).

--We support just peace in the Marketplace – so that all may live with dignity (for example, we support food, housing, employment access and opportunity for all).

--We support just peace among the Nations – so that human lives are protected (for example, we support analysis of our military’s unjust practices, as well as their best practices; we support alternative forms of peace and conflict resolution before the rush to warfare where servicemembers’ and civilian lives are at risk).

--We support just peace with the Earth—so that life is sustained (for example, we support nuclear disarmament and climate concern awareness; we challenge drone warfare).

--We will celebrate Just Peace Sunday each year on the Sunday before International Peace Day on 9/21 (in this year of 2018, for example, it falls on 9/16/18) where just peace is part of the Sunday School curriculum, the worship service, and our community hour). We will, also, include a just peace issue in at least one adult education class each year. We will establish small action groups around priority issues of concern.

--Finally, we should expect conflict as we do just peace work; challenging structures of violence, hatred, and oppression requires patience; perseverance; and, above all, Christ’s love at all times. We must be good to ourselves and each other as we put action behind this statement, living into the commitment of becoming—and being—a just peace church, one day at a time with Christ as our guide.