

Direct from Plenary Session

**RESOLUTION MARKING THE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JUST PEACE
PRONOUNCEMENT BY RECOMMITTING OURSELVES TO BE A JUST PEACE CHURCH**

WHEREAS, scripture calls us to seek God's shalom and participate in the reconciling mission of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

WHEREAS, at its Fifteenth General Synod in Ames, Iowa the General Synod adopted the pronouncement "*Affirming the United Church of Christ as a Just Peace Church*," and called on its local churches, conferences and national bodies to "*organize their common life so as to make a difference in the achieving of a Just Peace and the ending of the institution of war.*"

WHEREAS, in the thirty years since the adoption of the Just Peace pronouncement, we have seen protracted violent conflicts, intractable systemic injustices, and crippling cultural prejudices resolved using just peacemaking practices.

WHEREAS, in the thirty years since the adoption of the Just Peace pronouncement, many United Church of Christ Conferences, Seminaries, Institutions, and congregations have declared themselves Just Peace communities and have adopted policies and strategies to live out this call.

WHEREAS, in the year 2001, the United Church of Christ along with other global faith communities affirmed and participated actively in the World Council of Churches "Decade to Overcome Violence: Churches Seeking Reconciliation and Peace" program, and joined with other communions in marking the end of the decade in 2011 at the International Ecumenical Peace Convocation in Kingston, Jamaica.

WHEREAS, the World Council of Churches commended for study and action an "Ecumenical Call to Just Peace," and re-affirmed at its General Assembly in Busan in 2013 a "Statement on the Way of Just Peace," highlighting a growing ecumenical consensus toward Just Peacemaking, calling on member churches to join an "Ecumenical Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace," by seeking peace in four distinct contexts:

- For Just Peace in the Community- so that all may live free from fear,
- For Just Peace with the Earth- so that life is sustained,
- For Just Peace in the Marketplace- so that all may live in dignity,
- For Just Peace Among the Nations- so that human lives are protected

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Thirtieth General Synod mark the 30th Anniversary of the Just Peace Pronouncement by reinvigorating the Just Peace movement in the United Church of Christ and beyond. In common cause with all who seek peace with justice, a renewed Just Peace movement will most surely include ecumenical relations with Christian Churches throughout the world, interfaith partnerships in the United States and beyond, and strong new alliances wherever they may be made.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that each congregation of the United Church of Christ be invited to become a Just Peace congregation, if they have not already done so.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Thirtieth General Synod invites a litany of covenant making to be celebrated throughout the church and spread liberally across the minutes, publications and communication media of the United Church of Christ. Let this litany give God Praise for the first thirty years of witness in the United Church of Christ as a Just Peace church and covenant all who pray it into a common bond of love and service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Thirtieth General Synod invites congregations of the United Church of Christ to mark the Sunday preceding September 21 (which the United Nation recognizes as the “International Day of Prayer for Peace”) as Just Peace Sunday.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Thirtieth General Synod invites all settings of the church who have committed themselves to Just Peace to create local, regional, and national partnerships and networks with the encouragement and support of the Covenanted Ministries of the United Church of Christ; to raise awareness of conflictual justice issues, share concerns, stories, and experience of Just Peace practices at work, and build constituencies around Just Peacemaking.

FUNDING

The funding for the implementation of the Resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

IMPLEMENTATION

The Officers of the Church, in consultation with appropriate ministries or other entities within the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.