

What does it mean to be

A Just Peace Church?

"I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them..."
(Ezekiel 37:26)

Just Peace is the interrelation of friendship, justice, and common security from violence. This places the United Church of Christ in opposition to the institution of war.

Just Peace is grounded in God's activity in creation which shows God's desire to sustain the world and not destroy it. Our hope for **Just Peace** rests on God's promise that we will "have life and have it abundantly" (John 10:10).

Just Peace is grounded in hope. When God's abiding presence is embraced, human well-being results which links peace and justice.

A Just Peace Church is a countervailing power to those forces that divide, perpetuate human enmity and injustice, and destroy.

A Just Peace Church strives to be a community where differences may be expressed, explored, and worked through in mutual understanding and growth; a community that recognizes no enemies, willing to risk and be vulnerable, standing against social structures comfortable with violence and injustice. Nonviolent conflict is a normal and healthy reflection of diversity.

A Just Peace Church affirms transferring funds from military expenditures into programs that will aid the needy and developing strategies of converting military industries to **Just Peace** industries. The UCC resolution affirms that national security includes provision for general well-being, cultivation of justice, and creation of a political atmosphere and structure in which **Just Peace** can flourish and the risk of war is diminished or eliminated.

A Just Peace Church organizes to make a difference in their worship, education, outreach and funding.

A Just Peace Church affirms support for the International Court of Justice and declares opposition to all weapons of mass destruction.

In a **Just Peace Church**, members seek to understand, embrace, and enact their calling to find God's **Just Peace** and to end war through prayer, study of scripture, and engaging in advocacy, action and community witness. The goals are to resist the ways of violence and war, and proclaim peace and reconciliation.

Peace is possible!

References:

- UCC.org/just-peace for more information and resources.
- The Fifteenth General Synod Affirmed the United Church of Christ as a Just Peace Church in 1985. pronouncement/[http://www.ucc.org/who-we-are/about/general-synod/beliefs/theology_general-synod-"\h](http://www.ucc.org/who-we-are/about/general-synod/beliefs/theology_general-synod-\)
- Adopted by the 2002 NHCUCC Annual Meeting.