

First United Church of Christ
300 Union Street
Northfield, Minnesota 55057
Minnesota Conference
348 members - 12,562 in city

To: Congregational Meeting
From: Missions and Social Relations Committee

We recommend the following:

Whereas the General Synod XV affirms the United Church of Christ to be a Just Peace Church and define Just Peace as the interrelation of friendship, justice, and common security from violence;

Whereas the General Synod XV calls upon us to recognize that the creating of a Just Peace is central to our identify as Christians, and to organize our common lives so as to make a difference in the achieving of a Just Peace and the ending of the institution of war;

We the First United Church of Christ of Northfield, affirm that we are a Just Peace Church.

We believe that peace is possible, and violence must be minimized. We acknowledge that conflict is inherent to humanity, and that we must work to develop peaceful processes to address this conflict. We are committed to work for peace and justice in our church, in our community and in our world.

In our church, this includes

such concerns as working for inclusiveness and maintaining communications between church members. For example, this includes inclusive language, respecting diverse views, pay equity for employees and valuing all ages and diverse peoples as important to our community.

In our community and world, we believe that all people are entitled to basic needs including

- a. food and clean water;
- b. adequate health care;
- c. decent housing;
- d. meaningful employment;
- e. basic education;
- f. participation in community decision making and the political process;
- g. freedom of worship and religious expression;

- h. protection from torture;
- i. protection of rights without regard to race, sex, sexual orientation, religion, or national or social origin.

We are committed to work to make our world a place where all humanity has these needs met.