

Lyndale Congregational UCC  
831 West 31st Street  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55408  
Minnesota Conference  
147 members - 370, 951 in city

## RESOLUTION FOR LYNDAL CONGREGATIONAL U.C.C. AS A JUST PEACE CHURCH

In response to the Call of the 15th General Synod of the U.C.C. in June 1985, and upon reflection and study of A Just Peace Church by Susan Thistlethwaite, the adult Sunday School class proposed that Lyndale U.C.C. affirm itself as a Just Peace Church.

Just Peace can be defined as the presence of friendship, justice and common security from violence. A Just Peace Church works to bring about the biblical vision of "shalom", that is, a vision of wholeness, healing, justice, righteousness, equality, unity, freedom and community.

A Just Peace is grounded in the scriptures. Specifically in:

1. God's activity in creation.
2. Covenant relationship of God with humanity. (Ezek: 37:26), (Jer. 22:15-16)
3. The reconciling activity of Jesus Christ.
4. The presence of the Holy Spirit. (John 10:10)
5. The community of reconciliation (Eph. 2:14). Jesus performed signs of forgiveness and healing and made manifest that God's reign is for those who are in need.
6. Hope.

We affirm the following elements of a Just Peace theology:

1. Peace is possible. A Just Peace is a basic gift of God and is the force and vision moving human history.
2. The meaning of a Just Peace and God's activity in human history is understood through the Bible, Church history and the voices of the oppressed and those in struggle for justice and peace.
3. Nonviolent conflict is a normal healthy reflection of diversity; working through conflict constructively should lead to growth of both individuals and nations.

As members of a Just Peace Church, we are called to change our lives, our thinking, and our actions. We are called to act responsibly to bring about justice and peace.

As a Just Peace Church we are called to focus on the vision of shalom both in our reflection and our action. We are called to be a community of biblical and theological reflection, studying the scriptures, the Christian story, and the working of the spirit in the struggle against injustice and oppression. We are called to be a community of solidarity with the poor, seeking to be present in places of oppression, poverty, and violence and standing with the oppressed in the struggle to resist and change this evil. We are called to be a community of loyalty to God and to the whole human community over any nation or rival idolatry. We are called to political involvement to make our nation's policy reflect a Just Peace.

Through education, worship and outreach we can work towards the vision of Just Peace.

1. Education...workshop with teachers...brainstorming bringing justice and peace concepts into curriculum and activities.
2. Worship...committing at least four service/yrs. to justice and peace topics.
3. Outreach...food shelf, Simpson Shelter, Joint Ministry Project, delivery of commodities.

This is just a beginning. We are called to continue to challenge ourselves to find new ways to carry out the vision of a Just Peace.