

UNITED CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

JUST PEACE STATEMENT

Union Congregational United Church of Christ, West Palm Beach, FL, as a Just Peace Church, following in the footsteps of Jesus and acknowledging Him as Lord of all life, does declare our intention to express, by word and deed, that God seeks a world in which:

- Persons are nurtured and challenged to grow in grace, inner peace, love, forgiveness and strength;
- All persons are treated with dignity, justice and equality as children of God;
- Communities function in a cooperative, reconciling, conventional way, honoring the tension of conflict so that our knowledge and love for each other can grow;
- Societies give priority to providing for the wellbeing and fulfillment of each and every member without regard to race, religion, class, age, gender, physical condition or sexual orientation.
- Nations conduct their affairs and resolve their disputes through dialog and negotiation without resorting to economic exploitation or violence.

We commit to pursuing these aims both internally in our structures, programs and relationships, and externally in our social advocacy, investment or personal financial resources and acts of witness and service. We acknowledge that our understanding of God is still evolving and therefore, our vision of just peace will evolve as well.

Those who commit themselves to this covenant are sisters and brothers, members, associates and friends of Union Congregational United Church of Christ located in West Palm Beach, FL. We embrace and celebrate an open and affirming theology; witnessing our faith in Jesus Christ by striving to live in peace, loving mercy and doing justice in our lives and in the life of our community.

To that end we covenant as follows:

As a congregation of the church of Jesus Christ, we recognize that God is still speaking and is calling us to be about the work of doing Justice and making Peace in our world, in our community and in ourselves. Confessing that this call challenges our individual and corporate lives, we covenant among ourselves and with God to seek

JUST PEACE STATEMENT

the ways of Justice and Peace so as to make a difference in our lives, and the lives of all who experience injustice and violence in our community, and in the world, and to reach out to those people and to understand those problems and issues which are often overlooked.

After considerable discussion, the Just Peace Team has identified several issues which we have listed as a place to begin expressing our Christian concern:

1. The environment
2. Peace: global and local
3. Social Service: fuel assistance, bus and Palm Tran accessibility, children's safety issues; health care be priced within the ability to pay by all Americans and food for the hungry.
4. Reform of the Criminal Justice and Prison systems
5. Farm Worker issues
6. We live in the most affluent society in the history of the world, yet many are still hungry and/or homeless because the only employment they may obtain is at minimum wage. Therefore, Union Congregational United Church of Christ calls upon the Governments of the United States of America and the State of Florida to establish a living wage as the minimum amount to be paid to all employees.
7. Education
8. Finding and exploring new and creative ways of extending an Extravagant Welcome to members of the LGBT community and other groups which have been neglected by the church in its evangelism.

We realize that this list could, and most likely will become much longer, but these are the issues in which we hope to begin to make a difference. From time to time, there will be a new feature in our Sunday worship service called AWARENESS MOMENTS. During these moments members and/or guests of our congregation will draw our attention to a particular area of need and make suggestions of ways that we, as a congregation, may begin to make a difference. There will also be special programs and events organized around a particular theme. Members and friends are invited to make comments about any or all of these suggestions to the Just Peace Team. Please make them in writing addressed to the Just Peace Team.