We are a Just Peace Church

We formally proclaim ourselves to be a Just Peace congregation of the United Church of Christ. The Just Peace movement is a direct response to the centuries-old theory that seeks to justify Christians condoning, or being involved in a so-called “Just War.”

In following the non-violent example and teachings of Jesus we will work towards a world that promotes the well-being of all people, where conflicts are resolved through non-violent communication and negotiation, without resort to war, exploitation, or violence – and to embody these principles in our life and witness as individuals, and as a congregation.

Recognizing our imperfection, we seek peace, or shalom: the webbing together of God, humans, and all creation in justice, wholeness, and well-being. Far more than mere peace of mind or a cease-fire between enemies, shalom means universal flourishing, wellness, and joyful wonder. In seeking this peace we declare our intention to express by word and deed that God seeks a world in which:

- peace and justice prevail in every place, and for every person;
- violence, war, and exploitation are replaced by dialog, non-violent conflict resolution, and negotiation whenever and wherever disputes arise;
- persons are cared for, nurtured, and challenged to grow in grace, inner peace, love, forgiveness and strength;
- communities function in a cooperative, reconciling way, recognizing the reality of conflict so that our knowledge and love for each other can grow;
- societies give priority to providing for the well-being and fulfillment of each and every member;

We commit to pursuing these aims in our church’s structures, programs, and relationships; in our social and political advocacy, investment of personal and financial resources, and acts of witness and service.

We acknowledge that even as our understanding of God is ever evolving, so too is our understanding of what it means to become a Just Peace church. May God guide us on this ever-changing journey as we work for peace and justice in our time.

Unanimously adopted by Congregational Church of Lincoln City

United Church of Christ

Sunday, December 4, 2016