Just Peace - Beavercreek United Church of Christ

Beavercreek United Church of Christ declare ourselves to be a Just Peace Church.

We recognize the importance of promoting justice and peace in the world, in our nation, in our community, and in ourselves—communally and as individuals. We therefore covenant with ourselves and with God to seek the ways of justice and peace in order to make a difference in our lives and the lives of all who experience injustice and violence.

The 15th General Synod affirms that the UCC is a Just Peace church, and defines “Just Peace” as the interrelation of friendship, justice, and common security from violence”. Scripture affirms our responsibility to work for the common good. The Prophet Micah asked “What does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (6:8), and Jesus told his disciples that they served him when they fed the hungry, cared for the sick and visited those in prison, and loved others as much as they loved themselves.

We seek God’s peace, or shalom: the interrelationship of all people and creation in justice, wholeness, and well-being. Beyond mere absence of open conflict, shalom means universal flourishing and wellness. It is a vision of God’s peace, inseparable from justice and right relationship, for there can be no true peace without the flourishing of all.

Because Just Peace touches on so many justice issues, we recognize the importance of efforts in:

- Peace-making, including freedom from political violence i.e. war, and from individual violence, including gang violence and domestic violence, and access to alternative dispute resolution;
- Equality of opportunity, and freedom from discrimination and harassment on the basis of race, color, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability, national origin, or other physical characteristic;
- Freedom from hunger;
- Shelter/freedom from exposure to the elements;
- Education;
- The right to a voice in government;
- Health care;
- Clean air, soil, and water, and an otherwise healthy earth;
- Humane treatment for non-human animals;
- An opportunity to work with fair pay and safe working conditions

Therefore, to promote and embody God’s Just Peace, we will

- Engage in self-reflection to recognize and confront our own bias and privilege
- Commit to spiritual growth in becoming people of peace
- Pray for Peace in our communal worship and our personal prayers
- Worship by celebrating Just Peace Sunday and highlighting peace other times
- Educate ourselves on the relationship between peace and justice on various issues that impact peace
- Encourage congregation members to peace and justice making
- Witness publicly

As a Just Peace church, we commit to a continually evolving process, listening to our Still Speaking God and responding to our context.

We are called to Peace that passes all understanding, Just Peace.