



CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

Living **FAITH** Seeking **JUSTICE** Pursuing **PEACE**

Congo Prayer Campaign Toolkit: United Methodist Church

Overview

The week of October 19-25, 2026 serves as Breaking the Silence: Congo Week, a week of activities that commemorates the millions of lives lost in the Congo conflict while celebrating the enormous human and natural potential that exists in the country. Communities throughout the globe join in partnership with Congolese each year during the third week of October to screen films, hold teach-ins and forums, organize rallies, host fundraisers, put on concerts and undertake many other activities to elevate the profile of the Congo throughout the globe.

Sunday, October 19, 2025 will start off Congo Week by uniting churches in prayer on the Sabbath. As people of faith, we invite you to stand in unity and intercession for the Democratic Republic of Congo. Let us come together to lift our voices in prayer for peace, justice, and restoration for the people of the Congo.

Theme

Scripture

“If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.” (1 Corinthians 12:26)

“He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war anymore.” (Isaiah 2:4)

“He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth. He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.” (Psalm 46:9)

Wesleyan Tradition: Social Principles and Resolutions

“Congolese need and deserve support to consolidate peace, construct democracy, save lives, and rebuild their country.” (Resolution #3223: Democratic Republic of the Congo: Hope for a Radiant Future)

“The church deplores war and all other forms of violent conflict and urges the peaceful settlement of all disputes. We yearn for the day when there will be no more war and people will live together in peace and justice. We reject the use of war as an instrument of foreign policy and insist that every peaceful and diplomatic means of resolution be exhausted before the start of armed conflicts.” (United Methodist Social Principles, The Political Community, ¶163 War and Military Service F., page 34)

Campaign Purpose and Goals

Purpose: Unite churches in prayer, awareness, and solidarity with the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo during a time of crisis.

Goals:

- Center the Congo in church intercessions.
 - Educate members about the conflict, displacement, and human suffering.
 - Inspire moral and spiritual solidarity.
 - Mobilize churches for advocacy and giving.
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Dates

Launch Date: A Sunday for Congo: International Day of Prayer (Sunday, October 19, 2025)

Congo Week Dates: October 19-25

Potential Dates for Continued Action:

- February: Black History Month
 - Peace With Justice Sunday: First Sunday after Pentecost (May 31, 2026)
 - June 30: Congo Independence Day
 - December 31: Watch Night Service
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Resources for Sunday Service

Prayer Guide Format:

- Scripture reflection (e.g. 1 Corinthians 12:26, Isaiah 2:4, Psalm 46:9)
- Prayer requests
- A short reflection linked to Congo’s current reality

- Action prompt (e.g., light a candle, wear a ribbon, post on social media, donate, providing pictures/names of Congolese children during service)
- Show 1-2 video testimony or prayer from a Congolese pastor or youth (reach out to cmoore@umcjustice.org if interested in a video from a UM leader)
- Praise and worship (choir/music/dance)
- Final commissioning prayer

Sample Prayer Topics:

- Peace in the land
- Healing for survivors of violence
- Strength for church leaders
- Protection for displaced children
- Justice for victims of exploitation
- Comfort for grieving families
- Revival and restoration

Sample Devotional:

Scripture

“He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth. He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; He burns the shields with fire.” (Psalm 46:9)

Reflection

The people of the Congo have suffered decades of war, injustice, and insecurity. Whole communities have been uprooted. Children live in fear. Yet we know the God of peace still reigns. We are called to pray for an end to violence and believe in a future where Congolese families can live without fear. Our Social Principles reject the use of war as an instrument of foreign policy and insist that every peaceful and diplomatic means of resolution be exhausted before the start of armed conflicts. The church deplores war and all other forms of violent conflict and urges the peaceful settlement of all disputes. We yearn for the day when there will be no more war in the Congo and globally, and pray that people will live together in peace and justice.

Prayer

God of peace, we cry out to You. Let the weapons of war be silenced in the Congo. Speak calm into the chaos. Protect the innocent, heal the land, and raise up peacemakers among the people. We believe in Your power to restore.

Ideas for Church Engagement Materials:

- Sermon guide: Thematic sermon outline tied to biblical justice and Congo that ties in the Social Principles and UMC resolutions
- Bulletin inserts: Facts + prayer points for distribution (see below for resources)

- Flyer template: Editable announcement graphic for service slides/social media (see below for sample)
- Social Media Posts: “Prayer for Congo” images, hashtags, and scriptures (see below for sample)

Sample Social Media Post:

📌 “Pray for the Peace of the Congo” 🌍 🙏

Join us as we stand in spiritual solidarity with our brothers and sisters in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

💔 Millions have been displaced due to conflict and violence.

📖 “If one part suffers, every part suffers with it...” (1 Corinthians 12:26)

This week, our church lifts Congo in prayer. Will you join us on Sunday, October 19 in prayer? #PrayForCongo #PeaceInTheCongo

Suggested Worship Resources:

- Suggested Songs:
 - “Total Praise” – Richard Smallwood
 - “I Need You to Survive” – Hezekiah Walker
 - “God of Justice” – Tim Hughes
 - “Nkosi Sikelel’ iAfrika” (Pan-African anthem)
- Litany or Responsive Reading: A congregational prayer of lament and hope for Congo.

Youth & Children’s Activities:

- Create Congo prayer chains with written prayers
- Host Congo Awareness Sunday School lesson (map, flag, story)
- Organize “Kids Pray for Peace” candlelight event

Action Steps and Follow-On Activities

Advocacy and Action Steps:

- Draft a sample letter to Congressional representatives urging support for Congo peace. Reach out to cmoore@umcjustice.org for a sample draft.
- Host an event to drive calls to Senators and Representatives urging support for Congo peace. Reach out to cmoore@umcjustice.org for a sample phone script or further assistance.
- Attend service on Peace With Justice Sunday each year, where 50% of the funds raised stay within the United Methodist Annual Conference to enhance and

support local social justice ministries. Ensure that peace in the Congo is prioritized within the Peace With Justice ministry.

- Donate to [United Methodist Committee on Relief \(UMCOR\)](#) to support the humanitarian and development work in the Democratic Republic of Congo, providing aid like food, hygiene kits, and medical support to populations affected by conflict and natural disasters.
- Draft a Church pledge form to adopt Congo as a focus for one year.

Optional Follow-On Activities

- Zoom prayer nights with Congolese clergy.
- Panel discussion or teach-in on Congo's history and the church's role.
- Invite a Congolese diaspora speaker to Sunday service.

Links and Resources

United Methodist Church Resources:

- [United Methodist Church Social Principles](#)
- [Book of Resolutions #3223: Democratic Republic of the Congo: Hope for a Radiant Future](#)
- [General Board of Church and Society Position Statement on Democratic Republic of the Congo](#)
- [UMC Council of Bishops Pastoral Letter: A Call for Peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo](#)
- [Donate to UMCOR Congo](#)
- [Peace With Justice Sunday](#)

Resources on the Congo:

- [Congo Week](#)
- [Congo Booklet - The Democratic Republic of Congo. A Country In Crisis: History, Analysis, and Action](#)
- [Congo Facts: One Pager](#)
- [Ten Reasons Why Congo Matters](#)
- [Congo Historical Overview](#)
- [Sample flyer/graphic](#)
- [Congo ribbons to print](#)

Reach out to Colleen Moore, Director of Peace With Justice at the General Board of Church and Society, for more information: cmoore@umcjustice.org