

## PEACE WITH JUSTICE

# PEACEBUILDING

### What does the Bible say?

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. **(Matthew 5:9)**

But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven. **(Matthew 5:44-45a)**

And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. **(Matthew 6:12, 14-15)**

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. **(Romans 12:21)**

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. **(2 Corinthians 5:17-18)**



### What does The United Methodist Church say?

We recognize that no nation or culture is absolutely just and right in its treatment of its own people, nor is any nation totally without regard for the welfare of its citizens...While recognizing valid differences in culture and political philosophy, we stand for justice and peace in every nation. **(Social Principles ¶165.A)**

We believe war is incompatible with the teachings and example of Christ... As disciples of Christ, we are called to love our enemies, seek justice, and serve as reconcilers of conflict. We insist that the first moral duty of all nations is to work together to resolve by peaceful means every dispute that arises between or among them... We endorse general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control. **(Social Principles ¶165.C)**

Peacemaking is an essential task for achieving success in other initiatives. Working with the poor to eliminate poverty, caring for children, conducting global health initiatives can be most successful in stable and just societies free from armed conflict. To have sufficient resources for these tasks requires global peace and disarmament in order to redirect vast amounts of public funds now spent on armed forces and weaponry... United Methodist children, youth and adults become peacemakers wherever they are. **(2016 Book of Resolutions, #6126, "A Call for Peacemaking")**



**CHURCH & SOCIETY**

The United Methodist Church

Living FAITH Seeking JUSTICE Pursuing PEACE

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### What do the facts say?

- Conflict theorists often use three terms: peacekeeping, peacemaking, and peacebuilding.<sup>1</sup>
- **PEACEKEEPING** means keeping people from attacking each other by placing neutral soldiers – peacekeepers – from the UN or a group of neutral nations. The soldiers do nothing to settle the conflict.
- **PEACEMAKING** is the process of forging a settlement between the disputing parties.
- **PEACEBUILDING** is a process that facilitates the establishment of durable peace to prevent the recurrence of violence by addressing root causes and effects of conflict reconciliation, institution building, and political as well as economic transformation.



<sup>1</sup> Conflict Research Consortium, University of Colorado

### What do you say?

Take **ACTION** for justice...

**Support and promote** Peace with Justice Sunday, one of the six special Sundays that provides funding for peace with justice programs in your Annual Conference and the Church and Society Peace with Justice Program.



**Join** the Peace with Justice Network. The network provides resources and legislative actions to support peacemaking and peacebuilding. Visit [www.umcjustice.org/what-you-can-do/advocacy](http://www.umcjustice.org/what-you-can-do/advocacy) to join now.

If you reside in the U.S., **urge** your Senators and Representative to support the Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act. Call or write them today.

**Advocate** for robust funding levels for critical accounts within the federal budget that work to prevent violent conflict and atrocities as well help to protect civilians at risk around the world: *Peacekeeping Operations*, the *Complex Crisis Fund* (a fund for rapid prevention, stabilization and response activities), and the *Atrocities Prevention Fund*.

**For more information contact:**  
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