

## PEACE WITH JUSTICE

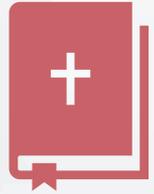
### What does the Bible say?

I will make for you a covenant on that day with the wild animals, the birds of the air, and the creeping things of the ground; and I will abolish the bow, the sword, and war from the land; and I will make you lie down in safety. **(Hosea 2:18)**

Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it. **(Psalm 34:14)**

And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and 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 any more. **(Isaiah 2:4)**

For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. **(Ephesians 2:14)**



### What does the United Methodist Church say?

We oppose the increasing reliance on preemptive strikes unless they can be clearly demonstrated to be proportionate in response, delimited in human casualties, and undertaken in response to clear and immediate threats to human lives. We grieve that in a world where so many live in poverty, governments continue to dedicate enormous resources to preparing for and conducting wars. We are especially distressed by the proliferation of nuclear weapons and call not only for an end to their production, but for their complete elimination. **(Social Principles ¶ 163.F)**

We support initiatives...that move toward the goal of disarmament. This demands a radical reordering of priorities with an effective system of international peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. **(2020/2024 Book of Resolutions, #4111, “The United Methodist Church and Peace”)**

If there is any concern in the international community where international law intersects with ethics and morality, it is the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons...Accordingly, we reject the possession of nuclear weapons as a permanent basis for securing and maintaining peace. **(2020/2024 Book of Resolutions, #4111, “The United Methodist Church and Peace”)**

We say a clear and unconditional NO to nuclear war and to any use of nuclear weapons. We conclude that nuclear deterrence is a position that cannot receive the church's blessing. **(Council of Bishops, In Defense of Creation, 1986)**



# NON-PROLIFERATION AND DISARMAMENT



**CHURCH & SOCIETY**

The United Methodist Church

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

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### What do the facts say?

- The world's nuclear-armed states possess a combined total of roughly 12,000 nuclear warheads; more than 90 percent belong to Russia and the United States. Approximately 9,500 warheads are in military service, with the rest awaiting dismantlement.<sup>1</sup>
- The Non-Proliferation Treaty, which came into force in 1990, aims to prevent spread of nuclear weapons and technology. India, Israel, Pakistan, South Sudan, and North Korea remain the only countries that are not party to this treaty.<sup>2</sup>
- The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), approved in 2017, aims to reinforce the provisions of the NPT by requiring nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals. The nine nuclear-armed states, including the United States, have not joined the TPNW.<sup>3</sup>
- The U.S. defense budget significantly outpaces those of other nations, accounting for nearly 40% of global military spending in 2023, and is greater than the next 9 countries combined.<sup>4</sup>
- The Mine Ban Treaty, which prohibits the use, stockpiling, production, and transfer of anti-personnel mines, entered into force in 1999. A total of 164 states are party to the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty, including all of the European Union, sub-Saharan Africa, and Latin America except Cuba.<sup>5</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, <sup>2</sup> United Nations, <sup>3</sup> United Nations, <sup>4</sup> National Priorities Project, <sup>5</sup> United States Campaign to Ban Landmines

### What do you say?

Take **ACTION** for justice...

- **Call** for a ban on nuclear weapons. Learn more and endorse the Back from the Brink campaign at <https://preventnuclearwar.org/>
- **Learn** more about the dangers of landmines and cluster munitions as well as efforts to support the Mine Ban Treaty by following the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and its Landmine Monitor verification initiative at <https://www.icblcmc.org/>.
- **Learn** more about U.S. weapons sales and what you can do to demand a more accountable U.S. arms trade at <https://arms-sales-accountability-project.com/>.
- **Advocate** for legislation on nuclear disarmament and risk reduction as well as international conventional disarmament. Talk to your lawmakers to prioritize needs of our communities over a bloated defense budget that puts the world more at risk.
- **Sign up** for email alerts on international humanitarian disarmament at <https://www.umcjustice.org/>.



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