

PEACE WITH JUSTICE

What does the Bible say?

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)**

They [nations] 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 2:4b)**

How I wish today that you of all people would understand the way to peace. But now it is too late, and peace is hidden from your eyes. **(Luke 19:42)**

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. **(John 14:27)**

Let us then pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding. **(Romans 14:19)**



What does The United Methodist Church say?

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. **(Social Principles ¶165.C)**

In support of the Korean people and in cooperation with partner Christian groups, it is recommended that The United Methodist Church...engage in prayer of penitence and petition with the Korean people...urge all governments that have relations with the Republic of Korea (South Korea) or the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea), or both, to exercise their influence to further mediation, interchange, peace and reunification...urge continued humanitarian assistance to North Korea, at the same time calling on the North Korean government to work with the United Nations to abide by all internationally agreed principles of human rights and humanitarian law. **(2016 Book of Resolutions, #6135, "Korea: Peace, Justice, and Reunification)**

We Christians of different communions, gathered together in the common cause of peace, are deeply concerned about the growing tensions on the Korean Peninsula over recent nuclear testing in North Korea and US-South Korea joint military exercises. We join with the Korean people, both in North and South Korea, in yearning for reconciliation, reunification and sustainable peace. **(2016 Book of Resolutions, #6135, "Korea: Peace, Justice, and Reunification)**



PEACE ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA



CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

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

PEACE WITH JUSTICE

What do the facts say?

- Since the signing of the Armistice Agreement in July 1953, millions of families have been separated by the world's most militarized border.¹ Churches, ecumenical bodies and civil society groups have called for the replacement of the Armistice Agreement with a Peace Treaty.
- In June 2000, North and South Korean government leaders pledged themselves to work for peace and Korean unification with the signing of the North-South Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.
- In July 2016, U.S and South Korean officials agreed to deploy the Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) missile defense system in Seongju County in North Gyeongsang Province, which has sparked widespread protest among South Koreans and throughout the region.²
- North Korean missile tests, the deployment of THAAD in South Korea, and on-going joint US-South Korean military exercises, which began in 1997, contribute to tensions on the Korean Peninsula and northeast Asia region.



1 Journal of Korean Studies, 2 Defense News

What do you say?

Take **ACTION** for peace and justice...

Advocate with your government to work through the United Nations to initiate new efforts, through diplomacy among parties, for peacebuilding on the Korean peninsula. Sanctions alone against North Korea will not bring about peace. Advocate for a peace treaty to finally end the Korean War.

Educate your local church about the situation using the United Methodist Resolution #6135.

Pray with North and South Korean Christians during Easter: "...Lord, the sorrows of the 70-years ethnic separation, still lingers since the time of our North/South division. We have lost the hopes of 'becoming one with God', and have sought after earthly goods instead of peace. Pity us, Lord. Clear away the pain-filled memories of separation, and also the rusty barbed-wires. Help the North and the South fulfill a life of harmony and peace. As the farmer readies himself to till new land and plant new life, prepare us Lord."

Join the Peace with Justice Network. The network provides United Methodist and ecumenical resources and legislative actions to support peacemaking and peacebuilding. Visit umcjustice.org to join now.

Invite members of the Peace Committee of the Korean Association of The United Methodist Church to speak to your church or Annual Conference. Learn how to work on Korea issues with the inter-agency United Methodist Korea Peace Table. Contact Rev. We Hyun Chang at mbhds@neumc.org.



PEACE ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA

For more information contact:
Mark Harrison • mharrison@umcjustice.org

www.umcjustice.org

General Board of Church and Society

100 Maryland Ave, NE Washington, DC 20002

© 2016 General Board of Church and Society of
The United Methodist Church