

Just Peace Church Statement
First Congregational United Church of Christ
Asheville, North Carolina

As a just peace church continuing the work of Jesus, we declare our intention to express by word and deed that God seeks a world in which:

- Persons are nurtured and challenged to grow in grace, inner peace, love, forgiveness and strength;
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- All persons are treated with dignity, justice and equality as children of God.
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- Communities function in a cooperative, reconciling way, honoring conflict so that our knowledge and love for each other can grow:
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- Societies give priority to providing for the well-being and fulfillment of each and every member without regard to race, religion, class, age, gender, physical condition, mental health or sexual orientation or gender identity;
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- Violence and exploitation by nations, corporations, and groups are replaced by dialog and negotiation when disputes arise.

We commit to pursuing these aims both internally in our structures, programs and relationships, and externally in our social advocacy, investment of personal and financial resources, and acts of witness and service. We acknowledge that our understanding of God is still evolving and therefore our understanding of just peace will evolve as well.

A shorter statement:

As a just peace church continuing the work of Jesus, we commit to work towards a world where all persons are treated with dignity and equality, where societies are structured in ways that promote the well-being of all people, and where conflicts are resolved through communication and negotiation, without resort to exploitation or violence – and to embody these principles in our life and witness as individuals and as a congregation.