

1 The Executive Council has recommended this resolution be sent to a committee of the General Synod.

2 3 OPTIONS TO WAR AGAINST IRAN

4 5 A Resolution of Witness

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7 **Submitted By:** The Kansas Oklahoma Conference

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9 **SUMMARY:** Be it therefore resolved that the United Church of Christ, based on our belief that
10 Christ desires peace not violent conflict in God's world, and on our commitment as a Just Peace
11 Conference, opposes unilateral, covert or overt pre-emptive war, against the people of the
12 sovereign nation of Iran.

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15 **BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL RATIONALE:** The Hebrew scriptures, the New
16 Testament texts, and our Christian ethic all point to our calling as disciples and peacemakers, to
17 do what we can to bring healing into the world, not hurt, to end bloodshed, not to initiate it, to
18 stop the killing and terrorizing of children and adults, and to make all of God's Creation a safe
19 place in which to live. Isaiah 40:1 says: "Comfort, O comfort, my people, says your God." And
20 Amos 5:24 says: "But let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever flowing
21 stream." John 14:27 tells us: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to
22 you as the world gives." In Matthew's Gospel we read: "You are the salt of the world; .You are
23 the light of the world." If indeed that is who we are and what we are called to be then putting
24 substantial energy, wisdom, and faith toward an effort to stop the rush toward a war against Iran
25 is certainly a way to remain faithful to the "good news" and to act in behalf of all of God's
26 children. In 1985, at General Synod 15, the United Church of Christ, realizing there is no longer
27 any rationale for a "just war," declared itself to be a Just Peace Church. This means the United
28 Church of Christ is committed to the deepest meaning of the word, "shalom," which is: "May it
29 all go well with you." The 25th Annual Meeting of the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference passed a
30 resolution declaring itself to be a Just Peace Conference, signaling our Conference-wide
31 commitment to a Just Peace church and society, working for non-violence, pursuing non-military
32 solutions to conflict, and identifying the mutual fears of the global family in order to bring
33 encouragement, comfort, and healing to all of God's children.

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35 **BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED,** that the Twenty-seventh General Synod of the United
36 Church of Christ, based on our commitment as a Just Peace Church, and seeking to honor our
37 calling to be a light to the world:

- 38 • proclaims its opposition to a unilateral, pre-emptive war against Iran as well as our
39 opposition to covert military and/or violent operations within Iran;
- 40 • recognizes and supports the many peaceful resistance movements within Iran itself;
- 41 • encourages direct diplomatic engagements and negotiations between United States
42 leaders and the leaders of Iran rather than military intervention;
- 43 • offers constant prayer that the flame of truth and the hard work of compassion will not
44 fail; and, finally,
- 45 • pledge ourselves to the words of the United Church of Christ Statement of Faith: "**You**
46 **promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the**

47 **struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life**
48 **in your realm which has no end. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you.**
49 **Amen.”**

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51 **FUNDING**

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53 Funding for the implementation of this resolution will be made in accordance with the overall
54 mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

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57 **IMPLEMENTATION**

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59 Justice and Witness Ministries is requested to work with Wider Church Ministries and
60 ecumenical partners to implement this resolution.

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