

NON-PROLIFERATION AND DISARMAMENT

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.

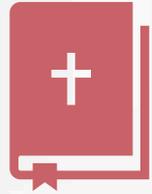
(Psalm 34:14)

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 believe that human values must outweigh military claims as governments determine their priorities; that the militarization of society must be challenged and stopped; that the manufacture, sale, and deployment of armaments must be reduced and controlled; and that the production, possession, or use of nuclear weapons be condemned. Consequently, we endorse general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control. **(Social Principles ¶ 165.C)**

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. **(2016 Book of Resolutions, #6129, "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)**

We support initiatives...that move toward the goal of disarmament. This demands a radical reordering of priorities with an effective system of international peace-making, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. **(2016 Book of Resolutions, #6129, The United Methodist Church and Peace)**



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 15,000 nuclear warheads; more than 90 percent belong to Russia and the United States. Approximately 9,600 warheads are in military service, with the rest awaiting dismantlement.¹
- The NPT, 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.²
- The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) adopted in 1996, aims to stop all nuclear explosion testing in all environments.³ The treaty will enter into force once 44 specified countries that have nuclear power reactors have ratified it. There are nine countries that have not done so: China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, North Korea, Pakistan, and the United States. More than 180 states have signed, and 149 have ratified the treaty, including all those of the European Union and Russia.⁴
- 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.⁵



¹Arms Control, ²United Nations ³CTBTO, ⁴Center for Strategic and International Studies, ⁵United Nations

What do you say?

Take **ACTION** for justice...

- **Call** for nuclear weapons ban. Learn what to do and how: www.reachingcriticalwill.org.
- **Lead** with information on hand, from “Resource Guide on Nuclear Disarmament: For Religious Leaders and Communities” (www.religionsforpeace.org).
- **Urge** your government to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Arms Trade Treaty.



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