

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 ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA

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.



¹Journal of Korean Studies, ²Defense News

What do you say?

Take **ACTION** for 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.
- **Join** the National Council of Churches in Korea (NCCCK) in their campaign for a peace agreement to replace the armistice and end the state of war on the Korean Peninsula. Add your name to this global campaign called the Korea Peace Appeal at <https://en.endthekoreanwar.net/>.
- **Educate** your local church about the situation in the Korean Peninsula. See resources at <https://ncckoreapeace.com/>.
- **Pray** with North and South Korean Christians, using their August 15, 2022 joint prayer for peace and reconciliation: "O Lord, how long shall we continue to keep the division on the Korean Peninsula? When will peace come to the painful and broken land of Korea? When will the South and the North lay down the weapons aimed at each other, hold each other's hand, and sing a song of peace? When will you lift the thick shadow of division?"
- **Join** the Peace With Justice Network to receive denominational, ecumenical and legislative resources on peacebuilding. Visit www.umcjustice.org/what-we-care-about/peace-with-justice
- **Invite** members of the Peace Committee of the Association of Korean Churches in the United Methodist Church and the inter-agency United Methodist Korea Peace Table. Contact Rev. We Hyun Chang at chochangfamily@gmail.com



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