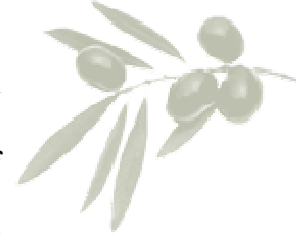


# Statement of Conscience

## *A Call to Repentance and Peace with Justice*

November 8, 2005

As followers of Jesus Christ, who named peacemakers as blessed children of God, we call upon The United Methodist Church to join us in repentance and renewed commitment to Christ's reign of compassion, justice, reconciliation, and peace.



As elected and consecrated bishops of the church, we repent of our complicity in what we believe to be the unjust and immoral invasion and occupation of Iraq. In the face of the United States Administration's rush toward military action based on misleading information, too many of us were silent.

We confess our preoccupation with institutional enhancement and limited agendas while American men and women are sent to Iraq to kill and be killed, while thousands of Iraqi people needlessly suffer and die, while poverty increases and preventable diseases go untreated.

Although we value the sacrifices of the men and women who serve in the military, we confess our betrayal of the scriptural and prophetic authority to warn the nations that true security lies not in weapons of war, but in enabling the poor, the vulnerable, the marginalized to flourish as beloved daughters and sons of God.

We confess our failure to make disciples of Jesus Christ and to be a people who welcome and love all those for whom Christ died.

Aware that we are to bring forth fruit worthy of repentance, we personally and as bishops commit ourselves to:

**Pray** daily for the end of war in general and the Iraq war specifically; for those who suffer as the result of war, including the soldiers and their families; the Iraqi people in their struggle to find a workable form of government; and for the leaders of the United States that they will turn to truth, humility, and policies of peace through justice.

**Reclaim** the prophetic authority that calls nations, individuals, and communities to live faithfully in the light of God's new creation where all people know their identity as beloved children of God; where justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like an ever flowing stream; and where barriers are removed and all creation is healed, reconciled, and renewed.

**Commit** ourselves to peacemaking as an integral component of our own Christian discipleship, which means advocating and actively working for the things that make for peace: personal, institutional, and governmental priorities that protect the poor and most vulnerable; modeling an end to prejudice toward people of other faiths and cultures; confronting differences and conflicts with grace, humility, dialogue, and respect without being so cautious in confronting evil that we lose our moral authority.

*Revised January 31, 2006*

We call upon all United Methodists to join in the pursuit of peace through justice as revealed in Holy Scripture and incarnate in Jesus Christ.

**Let us** move beyond caution rooted in self protection and recover moral authority anchored in commitment to Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace.

**Let us** object with boldness when governing powers offer solutions of war that conflict with the gospel message of self-emptying love.

**Let us** with compassion share the pain of God's children who suffer from the devastation of war and those who live in poverty resulting from misplaced priorities and misguided public policies.

**Let us** work toward unity in a world of diversity, that all peoples will come to know that we belong to one another, and that "in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us" (2 Corinthians 5:19).

*Signed by the following bishops of the United Methodist Church:*

1. Bishop Daniel C. Arichea, Jr., Baguio City, Philippines
2. Bishop James Mase Ault, Brunswick, Maine
3. Bishop George W. Bashore, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
4. Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton, Pittsburg Area
5. Bishop Bruce P. Blake, Winfield Kansas
6. Bishop Heinrich Bolleter, Central & Southern Europe Area
7. Bishop Benjamin Boni, Côte D'Ivoire Area, West Africa
8. Bishop Warner H. Brown, Jr., Denver Area
9. Bishop Monk Bryan, Lake Junaluska, North Carolina
10. Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño, Phoenix Area
11. Bishop Kenneth L. Carder, Durham, North Carolina
12. Bishop Roy C. Clark, Nashville, Tennessee
13. Bishop Judith Craig, Powell, Ohio
14. Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar, New Jersey Area
15. Bishop William W. Dew, Jr, Danville, California
16. Bishop Jesse R. DeWitt, Dexter, Michigan
17. Bishop Gaspar Domingos, Luanda, Angola
18. Bishop R. Sheldon Duecker, Fort Wayne, Indiana
19. Bishop Sally Dyck, Minnesota Area
20. Bishop R. Kern Eutsler, Mechanicsville, Virginia
21. Bishop Violet Fisher, New York West Area
22. Bishop Eugene M. Frank, Kansas City, Missouri
23. Bishop Elias G. Galvan, Scottsdale, Arizona
24. Bishop William Boyd Grove, Charleston, West Virginia
25. Bishop Susan W. Hassinger, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts
26. Bishop Robert E. Hayes, Jr., Oklahoma Area
27. Bishop J. Woodrow Hearn, Galveston, Texas
28. Bishop Kenneth W. Hicks, Little Rock, Arkansas
29. Bishop Leroy C. Hodapp, Evansville, Indiana
30. Bishop Robert T. Hoshibata, Portland Area
31. Bishop Janice Riggle Huie, Houston Area

32. Bishop John G. Innis, Liberia Area, West Africa
33. Bishop Neil L. Irons, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania
34. Bishop S. Clifton Ives, Portland, Maine
35. Bishop Rueben P. Job, Goodlettsville, Tennessee
36. Bishop Alfred Johnson, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
37. Bishop L. Bevel Jones III, Decatur, Georgia
38. Bishop Charles Wesley Jordan, Upland, California
39. Bishop Hee-Soo Jung, Chicago Area
40. Bishop Charles Wesley Jordan, Upland, California
41. Bishop Benjamin A. Justo, Baguio Area, Philippines
42. Bishop Charlene P. Kammerer, Richmond Area
43. Bishop Kainda Katembo, Southern Congo Area
44. Bishop Leontine Kelly, San Mateo, California
45. Bishop Deborah Lieder Kiesey, Dakotas Area
46. Bishop James R. King, Jr., Louisville Area
47. Bishop Walter Klaiber, Tuebingen, Germany
48. Bishop J. Lloyd Knox, St. Petersburg, Florida
49. Bishop Arthur Kulah, Monrovia, Liberia
50. Bishop David W. Lawson, Franklin, Indiana
51. Bishop Clay F. Lee, Jr., Byram, Mississippi
52. Bishop Linda Lee, Wisconsin Area
53. Bishop William B. Lewis, Edwardsville, Illinois
54. Bishop Ernest S. Lyght, West Virginia Area
55. Bishop James K. Mathews, Bethesda, Maryland
56. Bishop Marcus Matthews, Philadelphia Area
57. Bishop Felton E. May, Little Rock, Arkansas
58. Bishop J. Lawrence McCleskey, Charlotte Area
59. Bishop Calvin D. McConnell, Portland, Oregon
60. Bishop Marshall L. Meadors, Jr., Anderson, South Carolina
61. Bishop Jane Allen Middleton, Harrisburg Area
62. Bishop C. P. Minnick, Jr., Raleigh, North Carolina
63. Bishop Ruediger R. Minor, Dresden, Germany
64. Bishop Rhymes H. Moncure, Jr., Dallas Area
65. Bishop Robert C. Morgan, Birmingham, Alabama
66. Bishop Susan Murch Morrison, Albany Area
67. Bishop Albert Frederick (Fritz) Mutti, Kansas City, Missouri
68. Bishop Abel T. Muzorewa, Harare, Zimbabwe
69. Bishop Alfred L. Norris, Jonesboro, GA
70. Bishop William B. Oden, Dallas, Texas
71. Bishop Benjamin R. Oliphint, Houston, Texas
72. Bishop Øystein Olsen, Nordic and Baltic Area
73. Bishop Donald A. Ott, Pewaukee, Wisconsin
74. Bishop Bruce R. Ough, Ohio West Area
75. Bishop Gregory V. Palmer, Iowa Area
76. Bishop Jeremiah Park, New York Area
77. Bishop Edward W. Paup, Seattle Area

78. Bishop Joseph E. Pennel, Jr., Nashville, Tennessee
79. Bishop Sharon Zimmerman Rader, Chicago, Illinois
80. Bishop Roy I. Sano, Oakland, California
81. Bishop Franz Schäfer, Zurich, Switzerland
82. Bishop John R. Schol, Washington Area
83. Bishop Beverly Shamana, San Francisco Area
84. Bishop Ann B. Sherer, Nebraska Area
85. Bishop F. Herbert Skeete, Riverdale, New York
86. Bishop Dan E. Solomon, Abilene, Texas
87. Bishop Leo A. Soriano, Davao Area, Philippines
88. Bishop C. Joseph Sprague, London, Ohio
89. Bishop Hermann L. Sticher, Nuertingen, Germany
90. Bishop Forrest C. Stith, Upper Marlboro, Maryland
91. Bishop Mack B. Stokes, Waynesville, North Carolina
92. Bishop Patrick Streiff, Biel/Bienne, Switzerland
93. Bishop Mary Ann Swenson, Los Angeles Area
94. Bishop Melvin G. Talbert, Brentwood, Tennessee
95. Bishop James S. Thomas, Atlanta, Georgia
96. Bishop Solito K. Toquero, Manila Area, Philippines
97. Bishop Jack M. Tuell, Des Moines, Washington
98. Bishop Hans Växby, Eurasia Area
99. Bishop Hope Morgan Ward, Mississippi Area
100. Bishop Peter D. Weaver, Boston Area
101. Bishop Rosemarie Wenner, Germany Area
102. Bishop D. Frederick Wertz, Carlisle, Pennsylvania
103. Bishop Timothy W. Whitaker, Florida Area
104. Bishop C. Dale White, Newport, Rhode Island
105. Bishop Woodie W. White, Atlanta, Georgia
106. Bishop Max D. Whitfield, Northwest Texas - New Mexico Area
107. Bishop Richard B. Wilke, Winfield, Kansas
108. Bishop Joe A. Wilson, Georgetown, Texas
109. Bishop Joseph H. Yeakel, Smithsburg, Maryland