

peacebuilding in the uniting church in australia

Uniting Church justice staff in synods around the country are committed to working for peace with justice. Check out their websites for information and resources:

Western Australia

<http://www.justice.wa.uca.org.au/>

South Australia

<http://www.missionresourcing.net.au>

Queensland

<http://www.socialissues.ucaweb.com.au/>

New South Wales

<http://unitingcarens.wact.org.au/advocacy/>

Victoria and Tasmania

<http://vic.uca.org.au/jim/>

about us

UnitingJustice Australia is the National Assembly's voice on issues of social and environmental justice. We work in collaboration with other Assembly agencies and synod justice units around the country as well as with other community and faith-based organisations and groups. Visit our website to view and download issues-based fact sheets, worship resources, media releases, position papers and submissions to Government. We also produce action ideas for people who are interested in advocating for peace and justice.

access all our resources and subscribe to our email news updates at our website:

<http://nat.uca.org.au/unitingjustice>

email us: unitingjustice@nat.uca.org.au
phone us: (02) 8267 4236
send us a fax: (02) 8267 4222



get involved, get active

- join or start a local church or community group and get involved in peace building initiatives in your area
- use the principles outlined in Uniting for Peace and advocate for genuine peace and security in our world
- pray that those living with war and poverty may find peace, security, comfort and hope
- be informed: read and learn about the state of the world and the role that Australia plays in international aid and peacemaking
- write to your local member of parliament, outlining your views and asking that the Australian Government commit to fulfilling their international aid obligations
- donate thoughtfully: consider who will control the direction of the money you donate to humanitarian causes, and choose to donate to initiatives that empower local communities now and into the future

further information on peacebuilding

Decade to Overcome Violence is an ecumenical initiative of the World Council of Churches seeking to overcome violence at all levels of society.

<http://overcomingviolence.org/> (World Council of Churches)
www.ncca.org.au/dov (National Council of Churches in Australia)

Uniting International Mission's Young Ambassadors for Peace Program aims to bring peacebuilding initiatives to troubled communities

<http://uim.uca.org.au/ihr/yap>

Amnesty International Australia works against human rights violations around the world
www.amnesty.org.au

Make Poverty History calls on world leaders to fulfil their commitments to the Millennium Development Goals.
<http://www.makepovertyhistory.com.au>

Micah Challenge is a global Christian campaign working to be a prophetic and powerful voice for justice for and with the poor in communities around the world.
www.micahchallenge.org.au



Uniting for Peace

...for a world reconciled



the christian ideal of peace

In 1988 the Uniting Church, through its National Assembly Standing Committee, produced the *Statement on Nuclear Deterrence, Disarmament and Peace*. The Statement is a theological response to the call of Jesus Christ to peace in an age dominated by the nuclear arms race.

The Uniting Church expressed its belief that “all Christian affirmation about peace is grounded in the declaration that Jesus Christ is our peace” and that “the call to peace which comes from Jesus Christ is a radical call to trust the gracious God for life and security and to oppose the reign of death”.

The statement condemned as sinful and contrary to Jesus Christ’s promise of life the false promise of peace that comes with the possession of nuclear weapons.

uniting for peace

Following the 1998 statement, at its Tenth Assembly in 2003 the Uniting Church endorsed *Uniting for Peace*.

In the first section of *Uniting for Peace*, the Church expressed its commitment to the principles of the World Council of Churches’ initiative, the Decade to Overcome Violence, and pledged to work with those principles to overcome violence of all kinds in the world and within the church. The second section outlines our commitment to strategies which will help dismantle the global culture of violence and build a culture of peace through justice and genuine security.

“**true justice** can only be achieved through means that do not consist of violence, nor perpetuate the cycle of violence”

“true security can only be achieved through non-violent means that seek to **build trust** and relationships of **understanding** and acceptance between nations and people”



overcoming violence

In its commitment to the Decade to Overcome Violence expressed in *Uniting for Peace*, the Uniting Church has promised to:

- work together for peace, justice, and reconciliation at the local, national and global level and in collaboration with local communities, secular movements, non-government agencies and people of other faiths;
- embrace creative approaches to peacebuilding which are consonant with the spirit of the Gospel;
- empower people who are systemically oppressed by violence, and to act in solidarity with those struggling for justice, peace, and the integrity of creation;
- repent our complicity in violence, and attempt to overcome the spirit, logic, and practice of violence.

The National Assembly, through *Uniting for Peace*, also calls on members, councils, agencies, congregations and groups of the Uniting Church to examine our own lives so that we can work to overcoming violence and transform any systems and structures which perpetuate injustice within the Church.

working for peace and genuine security

Uniting for Peace outlines a vision of peace through justice and genuine security. The Uniting Church is committed to supporting and advocating for international measures and mechanisms which can help to dismantle the global culture of violence through ethical and non-violent means. These include:

- international treaties on human rights, social and human development, and preservation of our natural environment; and
- international cooperation between religious organisations, the community sector, the United Nations, and national governments to promote peaceful solutions to conflict, and prevent violence in all aspects of our life together.

The Church has restated its strong condemnation of the increasing willingness to use military force and the renewed arms race, calling for the progressive disarmament of all nations and declaring that we believe that:

- owning, using or threatening to use nuclear, chemical and biological weapons is evil; and
- relying on weapons for security and sustaining fear of the enemy can never achieve just and lasting peace.