

Peace Church Definition

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*the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Peacemaking Program
and the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship*

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A “**Peace Church**” in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is a faith community that shares with its Presbyterian siblings a deep passion for peace and has adopted the PC(USA)’s “Commitment to Peacemaking.”

A **Presbyterian Peace Church** takes the further step of aligning itself – within the Reformed tradition – with the historic “Peace Church” positions on violence, war, and the place of the military. A Peace Church recognizes that war and militarism are inconsistent with the Gospel of Christ and Jesus’ example of nonviolence, and it confesses that the Christian Church has historically been complicit in the world’s violence. A Peace Church challenges the adequacy of “Just War” or “Justifiable War” theory and theology, and understands that injustice, poverty and oppression are foundations of violence and war.

Accordingly, a **Presbyterian Peace Church** commits itself, after the manner of Jesus and with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to:

- **work** diligently to dismantle and disavow structures and systems of violence
- **oppose** U.S. militarism, the global expansion of the U.S. military and the war economy
- **disavow** war, weaponry, and violence in all circumstances as a means to resolve conflict
- **promote** the use of nonviolent means of conflict resolution including mediation, conciliation, and peaceful resistance
- **stand** against propaganda and actions that promote ill-will between nations or peoples and lead to war
- **foster** respect and dialogue to strengthen communities, build resilience, and resolve conflicts
- **care** for the marginalized and oppressed through ministries of justice and reconciliation so as to prevent the escalation of conflict into violence and war
- **affirm** conscientious objection in all its forms as a proper faithful expression of nonparticipation in warfare
- **equip** people as they discern their Christian response to war
- **accompany** and be in solidarity with those who have declared themselves to be Conscientious Objectors, and
- **act** in additional ways, guided by the Holy Spirit, that are consistent with being a **Presbyterian Peace Church** in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).