

Edgewood Covenant Statement on Justice and Peace

Adopted by the Edgewood United Church at a Congregational Meeting in 1996,

(In 1996 Edgewood became a Just Peace congregation. As a result, when we read the scriptures, make financial decisions, and seek to do God's work in the world, we do so with an eye toward social justice and peacemaking. We believe that economic injustice is a primary cause of suffering in the world and that we are called by our faith to advocate on behalf of those in need and to give of our talent and time and money to make a just world.)

We, now, mindful of the bond which relates us to the Lord of all life and to each other, do covenant together to express in our individual and community life the spirit of Christ, made known or to be made known. Whatever it should cost us, we offer ourselves anew to the struggle for justice, peace and the integrity of God's creation, that the Kingdom of God may draw near.

We will strive to live out this covenant in the priorities for the worship, programs, and ministries at Edgewood United Church. We covenant:

- to respond as a community of hope to God's call to nurture the growth of peace and justice within ourselves and to work for justice and peace in our church, our community, our nation, and our world neighborhood;
- to confess our complicity in sin and evil, and our individual and corporate part in perpetuating systems of injustice, violence, and destruction;
- to discover God's presence and message by standing with the poor, the victims of injustice, and those on the margin of society;
- to create in our congregation a zone of freedom in which differences may be expressed openly as we strive for mutual understanding and growth;
- to conduct our common life in ways that reflect God's inclusiveness of people of all nationalities, races, ages, abilities, genders, gender identities, and sexual orientations;
- to nurture, love, and empower one another as we work together to respond to God's mandate for justice and peace; and
- to act boldly in response to the *kairos*, the crises and opportunities, of our time.

With this covenant, Edgewood United Church is declared to be a Just Peace Church.