



2009

PEACEMAKING OFFERING

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

Since 1983, the sessions of more than 4,500 Presbyterian Church congregations have signed the "Commitment to Peacemaking", indicating that they will incorporate peacemaking into the mission and ministry of their congregations.

Peace doesn't just "happen"! As Jesus has showed us, it comes with a price --- Love, Compassion, Humility and Sacrifice.

YOUR CONGREGATION HAS BEEN SENT THE PEACEMAKING OFFERING KIT.

25% of the offering is kept by the congregation to use for their peacemaking efforts.

75% remaining should be sent to Presbytery to be used for Presbytery, Synod and Denominational peacemaking projects.

Some Suggestions for Peacemaking in Local Congregations and Communities:

1. Encourage prayer, Bible study and spiritual disciplines that mature and deepen the spiritual life of the community and equip people to share the Gospel message of peace to the world.
2. Organize a study of "To Strengthen Christ's Body: Tools for Talking About Tough Issues". **
3. Distribute copies of "Presbyterians and Military Service: Questions and Answers", to youth and young adults. **
4. Join or create an interfaith dialogue group.
5. Contribute to mission partners or projects that your congregation already supports.
6. Purchase fair trade food items for congregational dinners, such as olive oil from "Import Peace", a fair trade organization supporting Palestinian farmers, or coffee from similar sources.
7. Hold a Global Marketplace prior to Christmas where attendees may purchase fair trade and responsibly produced products from around the world (including the USA) as gifts. "Shares" may similarly be sold to benefit Church World Service, Habitat for Humanity, AIDS service organizations, hospitals and other reputable charities world-wide.
8. Address extreme poverty through the "One Campaign" and "Bread for the World".
9. Provide scholarship assistance for congregational members to attend "Ecumenical Advocacy Days" that involve worship, theological reflection and education.
10. Hold parenting classes that focus on nonviolent communications.
11. THE POSSIBILITIES ARE ENDLESS! BE RELEVANT AND IMAGINATIVE!

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE. WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOU!

** These RESOURCES and others are in your PEACEMAKING KIT.

If your project needs some extra FUNDING HELP or OTHER SPECIAL ASSISTANCE contact the Presbytery Office or the Global Mission and Peacemaking Committee. We want to lend a hand wherever we can to MAKE IT HAPPEN!

The second half of Psalm 85 provides a vision of what God's peace on earth will look like when people are centered in God's ways. Words like "prosperity", "abundance", and "good fortune" rest next to words like "salvation:", "truth", "love", "peace" and "justice". But they must be earnestly desired and striven for by those who truly "hear" the words of Jesus.

GLOBAL MISSION and PEACEMAKING COMMITTEE
Presbytery of Elizabeth

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Dohiyi

Frieden

BekÄ"

Damai

Pace

De vrede

Shantih



He Ping

평화

Paix

Pokoj

Paz

Mir

Sith

Shalom

Justice and peace shall kiss each other

I will listen for the word of God; surely
the LORD will proclaim peace
to his people, to the faithful, to those who
trust in him.

Near indeed is salvation for the loyal;
prosperity will fill our land.

Love and truth will meet; justice and peace
will kiss.

Truth will spring from the earth; justice will
look down from heaven.

The Lord will surely grant abundance; our
land will yield its increase.

Prosperity will march before the Lord, and
good fortune will follow behind.

(Psalm 85:9–14, New American)



Do justice, and you shall have peace. . . .

For if you do not love justice, you shall not have peace; for those two, justice and peace, love one another, and kiss one another so that the one who has done justice may find peace embracing justice.

They are two friends: you perhaps desire the one, and not the other: for there is no one who does not desire peace: but all will not work for justice. . . . If you do not love the friend of peace, peace itself will not love you, nor come to you."

(Augustine, Commentary on Psalm 85)